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LONDON, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1846.

## REVIEWS

*Memoirs of Chateaubriand.* Written by Himself. Vol. I. Part I. Colburn.

It these 'Memoirs of Chateaubriand' shall be maintained to their close in the spirit of their opening number—as there is every reason to expect—they will merit "a king's seat" among curiosities of Literature and Egotism. They are, also, "right royally" national. We have eccentrics of our own in rich and various profusion; and do not lack politicians, theological rapturists, and romancers who entertain a magnificent opinion of their own greatness. But an island is too small to have produced so superb a compound of the real and the unreal as M. Chateaubriand. He is for ever boasting of his mournfulness,—his genius,—his experience,—his fame,—his fate, which was to be born twenty days after some great man or a year and a half before some other. While he was "here" some other light of the world was (or might have been) "there." A strange mode this of writing memoirs!—and one to which more insignificant persons than the author of 'Les Martyrs' and the 'Itinéraire' might have recourse with great effect. Think of the *Browns*, the *Joneses*, the *Robinsons* who might claim such coincidences with Napoleon and Byron! Mr. Tennyson's pithy burden—

Every instant dies a man,  
Every instant one is born,—

contains a history in full of all these notable parallels. Yet to indulge in them M. Chateaubriand perpetually lost sight of all that marks character or points an anecdote or renders an epoch memorable. That this humour of self-reference was in part dramatically assumed by him as the "inky suit" of the Poet,—the only fitting wear for all true *Hamlets* and *Harolds*,—must be obvious to every one familiar with the fashions of literary motley. Nor less certain is it that the mood was encouraged by the solemn devotion of M. Chateaubriand's congregation. The flock whose last gatherings were held in the *Abbaye aux Bois* is now scattered, or too busy with new projects to have leisure for incense-burning before venerable Pomposities; but for many years our author was precious in its eyes,—as an idol, a rallying-point, a space eagerly thrown open by common consent, upon which all manner of spare enthusiasm might be "laid down." Though M. Chateaubriand rated himself as little lower than a King-maker, or than the Priest who during the storm hides the Ark which the Faithful shall one day disinter,—he was held alike by friend and foe to be fantastic rather than dangerous. He was known to blow a trumpet which played sonorous and striking tunes, but not such as rouse a nation to war or bring back an exiled Heir to a throne—and thus he was encouraged to blow lustily.

But, whatever may have been the form,—whencesoever the origin and nurture of this wondrous self-praise and self-observation,—however vast their amount—let us gratefully and frankly confess that precious things were mixed up with them. High thoughts, picturesque fancies, and heroic memories made a part of M. Chateaubriand's daily life and literary career—strangely placed, as they were, at the service of a vanity which was alike gigantic and empirical. It is not easy for the English reader or the English thinker of our days to sympathize with such a combination; but the value of real diamond as compared with paste, of pure gold as set against tinsel, is at once revealed if our author be measured with those of his own school. Let those who would judge M. Chateaubriand aright

consider the wonders of M. d'Arlincourt!—or, to sentence them to a lighter task, let them read in the volume before us the Introduction by the French editor, who out-Chateaubriands Chateaubriand himself by many a flight. We are told that the hero "belongs to that family of colossal thinkers before whom one pauses twice before one undertakes to go round them!" We are informed that there is "not a shore but he has visited, not a glory but he has tasted, not a misery but he has suffered." We are instructed that "this posthumous work of Chateaubriand's presents, indeed, if you must have it, the aspect of a palace,—but not of marble, it is of plain stone." Surely the editor who writes these fine and novel things of "the honest man, the great man" "who stood alone in the age,"—whose "name filled literature and flooded it with a golden light,"—must be M. Janin, and none else! We seem to have met with the Colossus not to be circumvented, the plain-stone palace, and the literature deluged by the golden stream,—not in the author's 'Chronicles of Cathay,' but *apropos* of Mdles. Mars and Taglioni!

Enough, however, by way of preliminary character and caution. Without further interjection or exception, let us draw from these Memoirs such passages as seem likely to interest the reader and to do the writer honour. To give anything like a connected detail of the incidents of M. Chateaubriand's life will, of course, be impossible. A group of family portraits, however, arrests us with the charm which belongs to such faded and unlovely pictures as are found in deserted mansions far in the depths of the country.—

"My mother was a politician; for the inhabitants of St. Malo discussed politics like the monks of Saba in the ravine of Cedron. She was much interested in the affair of La Chalotais. The warmth of her political feeling, and the discussions into which it led her, probably had the effect of irritating her temper. At home she was cross and excitable, qualities which joined to habits of parsimony, blinded us for a time to her many admirable qualities. Though, herself, not deficient in the spirit of order, yet her children were brought up in disorder. Although, in reality generous, she appeared avaricious, and with an amiable disposition, she was continually peevish. My father was the terror of the domestics: my mother their scourge. \* \* \* Lucile, my fourth sister, was two years older than myself. Like a neglected younger daughter, her dress consisted of the left-off clothes of her elder sisters. I leave the reader to imagine a very thin little girl, too tall for her age, her arms swinging awkwardly at her sides, oppressed by timidity, as if afraid to speak, and unable to learn anything. Picture her dressed in a frock not made to fit her, her waist compressed by corsets, with whalebones running into her sides;—forced to hold her head erect by an iron collar covered with brown velvet;—her hair turned up and confined beneath a black toque: if the reader can imagine all this, he may be able to form some idea of the miserable little creature I beheld on my return to the parental roof. Could I ever have conceived that she would one day be adorned with the talent and beauty which distinguished Lucile? \* \* \* My grandmother resided in the village of l'Abbaye, in a house with an adjoining garden. This garden descended in terraces to a little dell, in the depth of which there was a fountain surrounded by willows. Madame de Bedée was no longer able to walk, but with that exception she suffered none of the infirmities of age. She was an agreeable old lady, fat, fair, and comely; her air was dignified and her manners were elegant. Her dresses were made in a very old fashioned style, and she wore a black lace cap tied under the chin. Her mind was cultivated, and her conversation and manners were marked by gravity. Her sister, Madame de Boisteilleul resided with her. This lady resembled my grandmother in nothing but in goodness. She was small and thin, lively and talkative, with a turn for raillery. She had once been attached to a certain Count de Tré-

mignon, who had promised to marry her; but did not fulfil his promise. My aunt was a poetess and she used to amuse herself by inditing verses to the memory of her youthful love. I well remember her, as she sat, spectacles on nose, embroidering a pair of double ruffles for her sister, and, whilst plying the busy needle, she would partly hum, partly sing a quaint ditty commencing thus:—

Un épervier aimait une fauvette,  
Et, ce dit-on, il en était aimé.

The burthen of each verse was:—  
Ah! Trémignon, la fable est-elle obscure?  
Ture lure.

How many things in this world end, like my aunt's love, in *ture lure*! My grandmother consigned to her sister the superintendence of the household. She dined at the primitive hour of eleven in the forenoon and after dinner she took a siesta. She rose again at one o'clock, when she was carried out to the lower terrace of the garden, where, beneath the shade of the willows overhanging the fountain, she used to sit and knit, attended by her sister, her children, and her grandchildren. In those days, old age was a dignity: in these times, it is a burthen. At four in the afternoon, my grandmother was carried into her drawing-room, where the servant, Pierre, used to set out a card table. This being done, Mademoiselle de Boisteilleul would take the fire-tongs, and tap against the back of the chimney, and in a few minutes after this summons, there entered three old maiden ladies who resided in the next house. These were three sisters, the Demoiselles Vildéneux, daughters of a poor nobleman of the olden time. Instead of parcelling out their scanty inheritance into shares, they preferred keeping it undivided, and enjoying it in common with each other. They had always lived together, and had never resided out of their paternal village. They had known my grandmother from their childhood; they lived next door to her, and they regularly came every day when my aunt gave her signal with the fire-tongs, to play a game at quadrille with their aged friend. The game being commenced, the good ladies would sometimes quarrel over it: these little card-table disputes were the only stirring events of their lives; the only circumstances which disturbed their equanimity of temper."

And here is an uncle "cruel and bold," as the song says.—

"One morning I formed one of a party that was playing at prisoners base with much animation in the great court of the college, when a message was brought that I was wanted. I immediately followed the servant to the outer gate. I here found a tall, florid man, of brusque and impatient manner, and a gruff voice, with a stick in his hand. He wore a black, untidy wig, a cassock torn and tucked in at the pockets, dusty shoes and stockings out at heel: 'Young polisson,' said he, 'are you not the Chevalier de Chateaubriand de Combourg?' 'Yes, sir,' replied I, perfectly astonished at his interrogation.—'And I,' exclaimed he, much excited, 'I am the last senior of your family, I am the Abbé de Chateaubriand de la Guérande; look at me well.' The haughty Abbé thrust his hand into the pocket of his ancient shag breeches, took out a dirty crown piece of six francs, wrapped in a greasy piece of paper, flung it at my head, and continued his journey on foot, grunting his matins, with a ferocious mien. I afterwards learned that the Prince de Condé had offered this rustic vicar the preceptorate of the Duke de Bourbon. The arrogant priest replied, that the 'Prince, possessor of the barony of Chateaubriand, ought to know that the heirs of that barony might have preceptors, but were not the preceptors of any person.' This hauteur is a family failing. In my father it was perfectly odious; my brother carried it to a ridiculous extreme, and his eldest son is somewhat tainted with it. I am not sure whether, in spite of my republican opinions, I myself am altogether exempt from it. However, I most studiously conceal it."

A description of the young poet's life at Combourg affords us, also, the full-length of his father.—

"On my return from Brest, four masters (my father, my mother, my sister, and myself), inhabited the Château of Combourg. A cook, a housemaid, two footmen, and a coachman, formed the domestic



establishment; and a hound, and two old mares, were confined in a corner of the stable. These twelve living beings were quite lost in a place where there was ample room for a hundred knights, with their ladies, squires, and pages, and the steeds and hunting packs of King Dagobert. During the whole of the year, no stranger came to the château, except two gentlemen, the Marquis of Monlout and the Count de Goyon-Beaufort, who requested our hospitality, on their way to Parliament. They came in winter, on horseback, with pistols at their saddle-bows, hangers by their sides, and followed by a valet, also on horseback, and having behind him a large portmanteau. My father, who was always very ceremonious, went bare-headed to receive them at the door, in the midst of the wind and rain. The guests recounted their adventures during the wars in Hanover, their family affairs, and the history of their law-suit. At night they were conducted to the Northern tower, to the apartment of *Queen Christina*, a room of state furnished with a bed seven feet every way, with double curtains of green gauze and crimson silk, and supported by four gilt cupids. The next morning when I was going down to the parlour, and looked through the windows at the country either flooded or covered with hoar-frost, I could see only two or three travellers on the solitary road by the fishpond; they were our guests riding along towards Rennes. These strangers knew but little of the world, but still our view was extended by their means a few leagues beyond the horizon of our own woods. As soon as they were gone, we were reduced, on working-days, to a family *tête-à-tête*, and on Sundays, to the society of the people of the village and a few neighbouring gentlemen. On Sunday, when the weather was fine, my mother, Lucile and I went to church across the little mall, along a country road; when it rained, we went through the abominable street of Combourg. We did not go, like the Abbé de Marolles, in a light chariot drawn by four white horses taken from the Turks in Hungary. My father only went to church once a year, at Easter, to receive the Sacrament; the rest of the time he attended Mass in the chapel of the château. Seated in our pew, we performed our devotions opposite to the black marble tomb of René de Rohan, contiguous to the altar; image of human honours! a few grains of incense before a coffin! The dissipation of the Sunday concluded with the day; they did not even return regularly. During the severe weather, entire months passed without any human creature knocking at the gate of our fortress. If the solitude was oppressive on the heath around Combourg, it was still more so in the château; one felt on passing under its arches the same sensation as on entering the *Chartreuse* at Grenoble. When I visited the latter in 1805, I crossed a desert which seemed ever increasing. I supposed it would terminate at the monastery; but I was shown within the convent walls, the gardens of the *Chartreuse* still more desolate than the woods. At last, in the centre of the building, I found, enveloped in these solitudes, the burying-ground of the monks; a sanctuary from whence eternal silence, the divinity of the place, extends his power over the mountains and forests round about. The sombre quietude of the Château of Combourg was augmented by the taciturn and unsocial disposition of my father. Instead of collecting his family and people about him, he had scattered them to the four winds throughout the building. His bedroom was in the little tower at the east, and his study in the little tower at the west. The furniture of this study consisted of three chairs covered with black leather, and a table covered with deeds and papers. A genealogical tree of the Chateaubriand family hung over the mantel-piece, and in the recess of a window were to be seen all sorts of arms, from a pistol to a blunderbuss. My mother's apartment was immediately above the great dining-hall, between the two little towers: it was inland and adorned with Venetian mirrors. My sister had a little room opening into my mother's. The housemaid's room was some distance off, in the wing with the large towers. As for me, I had nestled myself in a kind of little isolated cell, in a tower at the top of the staircase which led from the inner court to different parts of the château. At the foot of this staircase my father's

valet and the other man-servant slept in a vaulted cellar; and the cook kept guard in the great tower to the west. My father rose at four o'clock in the morning, winter and summer: he went into the inner court to awake his valet, at the foot of the tower staircase. A cup of coffee was taken to him at five o'clock; he then occupied himself in his study till noon. My mother and sister both breakfasted in their own rooms at eight o'clock. I had no fixed hour, either for getting up or for breakfasting: I was understood to be studying till noon, but the greater part of the time I did nothing whatever. At half-past eleven a bell was rung, and dinner was served at twelve. The great saloon was at once a dining-room and a drawing-room; for we dined and supped at its eastern extremity, and, after meals, we went to the western end, and sat round an enormous fire. This apartment was wainscotted, painted in grey, and adorned with old portraits from the reign of Francis I. to that of Louis XIV. Conspicuous amongst these portraits were those of Condé and Turenne; and a painting, representing Hector killed by Achilles under the walls of Troy, was hung over the fire-place.

"Dinner over, we remained together till two o'clock; then, if it was summer, my father amused himself in fishing, visiting his kitchen-garden, and walking in the grounds of the château. In autumn and winter, he went out to hunt: and my mother retired to the chapel, where she spent some hours in prayer. This chapel was a solemn oratory, embellished by some good paintings of the great masters; such pictures as one could scarcely expect to find in a feudal castle in the heart of Brittany. I have at present in my possession a Holy Family, by Albano, painted on copper, which was taken from this chapel; it is the only memorial I have of Combourg. My father being gone out, my mother gone to prayers, and Lucile shut up in her chamber, I either returned to my little cell, or went out and ran about the fields. At eight o'clock, the bell rang for supper. After that was over, in fine weather we sat at the door. My father, armed with his gun, shot the owls as they flew out from the battlements at nightfall. My mother, Lucile and I, gazed at the sky, the woods, the last rays of the sun, and the first-appearing stars. At ten o'clock, we re-entered the house, and retired to rest. The evenings in autumn and winter were quite different. When supper was over, and the party of four had removed from the table to the chimney, my mother would throw herself, with a sigh, upon an old cotton-covered sofa, and near her was placed a little stand with a light. I sat down by the fire with Lucile; the servants removed the supper things, and retired. My father then began to walk up and down, and never ceased until his bedtime. He wore a kind of white woollen gown, or rather cloak, such as I have never seen with any one else. His head, partly bald, was covered with a large white cap, which stood bolt upright. When, in the course of his walk, he got to a distance from the fire, the vast apartment was so ill lighted by a single candle, that he could be no longer seen; he could still be heard marching about in the dark, however, and presently returned slowly towards the light, and emerged by degrees from obscurity, looking like a spectre, with his white robe and cap, and his tall, thin figure. Lucile and I used to venture upon the exchange of a few words, in a low voice, when he was at the other end of the room; but were silent as soon as he again approached us. He would say to us in passing, 'Of what were you speaking?' Seized with terror, we made no reply, and he continued his walk. During the remainder of the evening, no sound struck the ear but the measured noise of his steps, my mother's sighs, and the moaning of the wind. When the castle clock struck ten, my father would stop; the same spring which touched the hammer of the clock seemed to have arrested his steps. He would draw out his watch, wind it up, take a great silver candlestick, surmounted by a long candle, go for a few minutes into the little tower to the west, then return, candle in hand, and advance towards his sleeping-room in the little tower at the east. Lucile and I placed ourselves in his way, embraced him, and wished him good night. He bent down to us his withered and hollow cheek, without giving us

any reply, continued his course, and retired into his tower, the doors of which we could hear shut upon him. The charm was broken; my mother, my sister, and I, who had been transformed into statues by my father's presence, now recovered the functions of life. The first effect of our disenchantment was manifested by an inundation of words; if silence had oppressed us, we paid it in full. When this torrent of words had flowed by, I summoned the maid, and accompanied my mother and sister to their apartments. Before I came away, I was obliged to look under all the beds, up the chimneys, behind the doors, and to examine the staircases, passages, and galleries, in the vicinity. The various traditions of the château, about thieves and spectres, were recalled to memory. The belief was pretty general, that a certain Count de Combourg, with a wooden leg, who had died about three centuries before, appeared at stated times, and had been met on the great staircase of the tower: his wooden leg walked about also, sometimes in company with a black cat."

We are obviously invited to believe that this Chateaubriand family was by no means a common race. Allowing its singularity and its mystery to be "proven" as peculiar characteristics in no respect flattered or exaggerated by the romancer, the picture of life and intellect among the ancient nobility of France here displayed is not engaging. The households of the Taverneys, in the 'Memoirs of a Physician,' by Dumas—and of the Colobrières, in Madame Charles Reybaud's charming 'Old Convents of Paris'—are happy and cheerful circles as compared with this party at Combourg.

By way of contrast, a few incidents of court and city life will be acceptable. Let us begin by showing how young courtiers were expected to hunt with *Louis Seize*, whether they liked hunting or not.—

"The Duc de Coigny sent to let me know that I was to go out hunting with the King in the forest of St. Germain. I set out early in the morning towards my punishment, in the uniform of a *débutant*—a grey coat, red waistcoat and small clothes, jockey boots, a hanger by my side, and a little French hat with a gold lace band. There were four of us new comers at the Palace of Versailles—the two Messrs. de St. Marsault, Count de Hautefeuille and myself. The Duke de Coigny gave us our instructions; he warned us not to cross the scent, the King being angry when any one passed between him and the game. The Duc de Coigny bore a name fatal to the Queen. The place of meeting was at Val, in the forest of St. Germain, a domain pledged by the Crown to Marshal de Beauveau. Custom required that those presented at court should, on their first hunting excursion, be supplied with horses from the King's stables. \* \* We arrived at the rallying point, where numbers of saddle-horses, led about under the trees, exhibited their impatience. The carriages left in the forest with the guards—the groups of men and women—the pack with difficulty restrained by the huntsmen—the baying of the dogs—the neighing of the horses, and the noise of the horns, formed a highly animated scene. \* \* On alighting from the carriages, I presented my ticket to one of the masters of the hunt. A mare called *Heureuse* was allotted to me—of light mould, but badly mouthed, skittish and full of caprice; she formed a fiery image of my fortunes, and was continually pricking up her ears. The King having mounted, set out; the whole field followed him, taking different routes. I remained behind to try a struggle with *Heureuse*, who was very unwilling to be bestriden by her new master; I succeeded, however, in throwing myself on her back; the party was already at a distance. I contrived at first to manage *Heureuse* pretty well; compelled to shorten her gallop, she put down her neck, champed the flaming bit, and bounded with short leaps from side to side; but as she drew near to the scene of action, it became impossible to restrain her. She threw up her head—pulled my hand down to the saddle-bow—dashed at full speed into the midst of a crowd of hunters, clearing everything in her course, and never stopped till she came in contact with the horse of a woman, which she overturned, in the midst of

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rons of laughter from some, and cries of fear from others. It is quite in vain for me now to attempt to recall the name of that woman, who received my apologies with great politeness. The whole talk of the day turned upon the adventure of the *débutant*. I was not, however, at the end of my trials. About half an hour after my discomfiture, I was riding in a long alley crossing some wild parts of the wood; a pavilion rose at the extremity; this made me begin to think of the palaces scattered through the royal forests, calling to mind the origin of the long-haired kings and their mysterious pleasures. A shot was fired; *Heureuse* turned short round, brushed, with her head down, into the thicket, and carried me precisely to the spot at which the stag had just been brought down. The King appeared. I then remembered, but too late, the injunctions of the Duc de Coigny. The cursed *Heureuse* had done it all. I leaped to the ground, with one hand pushing back my mare, with the other holding off my hat. The King looked at me, and merely saw that a *débutant* was in before him at the death. He wished to speak; and instead of being angry, he said to me, in a good-humoured tone, and with a loud laugh, 'It has not lasted long.' These were the only words I ever heard from Louis XVI. The suite came in from all sides, and were astonished to find me talking with the King. The *débutant* Chateaubriand made some noise in consequence of his adventures; but, as it has always happened since, he knew neither how to profit by his good nor by his evil fortune. The King ran three other stags. The *débutants* not being allowed to ride more than the first run, I went to wait at Val with my companions for the King's return from the hunt."

With three or four characters of the second-rate literary men of the time, we shall close our extracts from this first part.—

#### "Delisle de Sales.

"Madame de Farcy had formed an acquaintance, I know not how, with Delisle de Sales, who was formerly confined in Vincennes for some philosophical nonsense. In those days, a man obtained celebrity for scribbling a few lines of prose, or contributing a few stanzas to the *Almanac des Muses*. Delisle de Sales was a good fellow, of talents very decidedly mediocre, with a great flow of spirits, and one who bore his years well; the old man had a tolerably large library of his own works, which he offered for sale to strangers, and which no one in Paris ever thought of reading. Every year, in the spring, he rubbed up his ideas in Germany. Fat and portly, he was in the habit of carrying about a roll of dirty paper, which was to be seen sticking constantly out of his pocket; to this paper he consigned the thoughts of the moment, at the corners of the streets. On the pedestal of his marble bust, he had, with his own hand, traced an inscription, borrowed from the bust of Buffon: *God, man, nature, he has explained all.*"

#### "Flins.

"Flins, being the son of the overseer of the waters and park at Rheims, had received a very desultory education; still, he was a man of wit, and now and then showed talents. It was impossible to see an uglier man: short and puffy, with large projecting eyes, bristly hair, and foul teeth; but, notwithstanding all, a man of by no means ignoble mien. His mode of life—a sample of that of almost all the men of letters at that period in Paris—deserves to be related. Flins occupied chambers in the Rue Mazarin, very near those of La Harpe, who lodged in the Rue Guénégaud. Two Savoyards, travestied as lacquiers, in virtue of livery frock-coats, waited on him; they followed him in the evening, and during the morning introduced his visitors at home. Flins went regularly to the Théâtre Français, which was then at the Odéon, and especially distinguished for comedy. Brizard was just then closing his career; Talma commencing his: Larive, St. Phal, Fleury, Molé, Dazincourt, Dugazon, Grandmesnil; Mesdames Contat, St. Val, Desgareins, Olivier, were all at the height of their reputation, and Mademoiselle Mars, the daughter of Monvel, coming forward to make her *début* at the Théâtre Montansier. Actresses were the patrons of authors, and sometimes became the means of their success. Flins, who had

only a small allowance from his family, lived upon credit. On the approach of the parliamentary vacation he pawned the liveries of his Savoyards, his two watches, his rings and linen, and, with the cash, paid what he owed, set out for Rheims, remained there three months, returned to Paris, and, with money received from his father, redeemed his pledges from the Mont-de-Piété, began the circle of life afresh, always merry, and well received everywhere."

#### "Parny.

"I found Parny still rather young, of good manners, tall and thin, and marked with the small-pox. He returned my visit; I presented him to my sisters. He had no great liking for society, from which he was soon driven by politics; he was then of the old party. I never knew a writer who was more like his works: being a poet and a creole, all his wants were an Indian sky, a fountain, a palm-tree and a wife. He dreaded noise, sought to glide through life unperceived, sacrificed everything to his indolence, and was only drawn forth from obscurity by his pleasures, which, *en passant*, awakened his lyre. \* \* \* It was this impossibility of rousing himself from his indolence which turned the Chevalier de Parny from a furious aristocrat into a miserable revolutionist, attacking a persecuted religion and its priests on the scaffold, purchasing his repose at any price, and lending to his muse, which produced Eleonora, the language of the places in which Camille Desmoulins was in the habit of going to haggle about his amours."

#### "Lebrun.

"The poet Lebrun was a friend of Ginguéné's. Ginguéné protected Lebrun, as a man of talent who knows the world protects the simplicity of a man of genius; Lebrun in his turn shed his lustre upon the elevation of Ginguéné. Nothing could be more amusing than the characters played by these two friends, by an agreeable intercourse rendering each other all those services which can be rendered by two superior men in different ways. Lebrun was just a mock gentleman of the empire; his inspiration was as cold as his transports were icy. The whole furniture of his Parnassus—an attic in the Rue Montmartre—consisted of books lying pell-mell on the floor, a mean bed, with two dirty towels for curtains hung upon a rusty iron curtain rod, and a broken water-jug propped up against a bottomless chair. It was not that Lebrun might not have been at his case, but he was avaricious and addicted to bad company."

The literary men of Paris were little more engaging than the provincial aristocracy of France, if we are to accept the above miniatures as fairly taken and their subjects as representing the epoch. But we suspect that both manner and selection were subordinate with our author to his fond resolution of making himself predominate in the group by force of contrast.

Ere we leave this first publication of the *Mémoires d'Outre Tombe*, let us note (somewhat in M. Chateaubriand's own style) the odd coincidence that they should appear almost simultaneously with the Memoirs of M. Caussidière! The fragmentary manner of their publication is singularly unpleasant,—and, in these times of breathless interest, calculated to prove detrimental to the success of the work. The executors whom M. Chateaubriand appointed to see his *Mémoires* through the press have been at issue with the shareholders who bought the MSS. during his lifetime:—naturally desiring, so far as the law will enable them, to restrain the publication within limits more classical than those of the *feuilleton* or the periodical pamphlet. This is, of course, now too late. The venerable author yielded his consent to any scheme on which the *actionnaires* might agree for the sake of the golden bait held out during his lifetime. Dignity comes too late into the field when "the money is spent."

#### The Almanacs for 1849.

'Francis Moore,' 'The British,' and several other Almanacs have not yet made their appearance:—but we have a few on our table, which we shall proceed to describe.

The *Comic Almanac* is by profession a joker; licensed and privileged—and therefore not amenable to the remarks which we made last week on books of its trifling class generally. The picture jests are, as usual, by George Cruikshank,—the written ones are by Mr. Horace Mayhew. Neither are of a very dangerous quality. There is, of course, fun for those who are not particular as to quality—as at the Christmas season men should not be—by the artist. From his commentator we borrow a few small scraps.

"*Conscience Money*.—A fast man, who acknowledges having read the 'Comic Almanac' of last year through the shop-windows, and is ashamed now of the petty meanness, begs to forward to the Editor, as conscience-money, the sum of One Shilling. The halves of six blue postage-stamps are now enclosed, and the remaining halves will be forwarded as soon as the first are acknowledged.—[The above have been duly handed over to Mr. Bogue, who has generously paid the amount into the poor-box for the Relief of Distressed Jokers—a most deserving charity.—Ed. C. A.]"

"*The Game of Fright*.—This round game has been played very extensively in France and other countries this year. In some circles the king has been thrown out and all the honours put aside; which has increased the fight to a very great extent, as it was always doubtful what low card would be the next turn up. Hitherto the clubs have been uppermost, and the knaves have shared all the spoil; but people are just beginning to see through the game, and are calling for a fresh pack; so we hope there will soon be an end to the fight."

"*England's Stream of Charity*.—We are told by the advertisements that 'The Asylum for Distressed Sewers is always open.' This asylum surely must be the Thames?"

"*Mockery*.—'I have learnt this profound truth,' says Alderman Johnson, 'from eating turtle, that it shows a most depraved taste to mock anything for its greenness.'"

"*A Critic*.—A man who judges an author's works by the 'errata.'"

We find nothing more racy than these. If the reader do not bring to the book the good-will appetite of the season, he will not find a feast.

*Date obolum Belisario*—buy the *New London Almanac*; sixteen pages of print and some paper to make notes on, all for one penny! Buy it vigorously, and the price will soon be one halfpenny,—and not cheap. The projector of the *Penny Magazine* would do it for half a farthing with a circulation of fifty thousand.—The *Legal Year-Book* has a body of references for lawyers, with abundant room for notes. Lists of town clerks and magistrates' clerks all through England are indeed specimens of small points of law.—From this dry but useful book, we pass to the *Illustrated London Almanac*: the woodcuts of which give pleasant representations of rural fêtes, with descriptions—also many astronomical diagrams and information corresponding. Dietrichsen & Hannay's *Royal Almanac* is, as heretofore, very full of astronomy from the *Nautical Almanac* and of general information from all quarters. The *Methodist Almanac* is, of course, of a specific design: but as this sect reports itself to number four and a quarter millions of souls in all parts of the world,—giving, as is supposed, about two millions of money for its own support—it may well afford an almanac. The *Reformer's Almanac* is political, and seems to stand up for the demands of the Chartists without taking their name. It gives an account of all abuses in Church and State,—and appeals to the pockets of its readers. It is a good thing to have a



reference book of grievances: as such, this almanac will be useful both to the defender of things as they are and to the assailant.—Oliver & Boyd's *Threepenny Almanac* is more of the old school than those previously noticed, but is very full of information.—The *Literary and Scientific Register and Almanac* has a long title, but it has a dedication to match. It is inscribed to Prince Francis Albert Augustus Charles Emanuel,—of whom we should by no means have guessed that he was the Queen's husband, commonly known as Prince Albert, if he had not been styled Field-Marshal. It is an almanac with a great deal of miscellaneous scientific information, in the pocket-book form. On the outside is stamped a scale of inches and centimetres.

While looking at these almanacs, and particularly at the legal one, a thought struck us which we will embody as a suggestion. Is it really true that the year begins on the first of January? That is, if a person desired to preserve his notes and memoranda for future reference; would the intervals between successive Januaries be the periods which it would be most convenient to him to have in separate volumes? It strikes us that the year of business begins in so many cases immediately after the long vacation, that many persons would desire an almanac which should begin with October and end with the next September. Such an *intervacational* almanac however should, to meet all cases, begin with September and proceed to the end of October twelvemonth,—thus going through fourteen months. In the competition which exists, we cannot help thinking that this idea would be worth attention:—particularly when it is remembered that the almanac fashioned upon it would be in the field a month or two before its competitors.—And here we leave off for the present.

*The History of British India from 1805 to 1830.*

By H. H. Wilson, Esq. Vol. III. Madden.

Prof. Wilson has here completed his edition and continuation of Mill,—taking for his conclusion the period of the last renewal of the Company's Charter. The time is not very distant when the question of a further renewal of that charter must be subjected to the consideration of the Legislature,—and we know of no authority so deserving a large share of influence in the decision as this ample and impartial history of British administration in India.

The wars recorded in this ninth volume of the entire series, though little more than twenty or thirty years old, are to the mass of readers as obsolete as the wars of the Roman Empire. Rapidity of growth and rapidity of decay seem to be laws of Asiatic existence; permanence and stability only to be attained when a large infusion of northern influence is enabled to control the excitability of southern temperament. India would appear to be a land predestined to subservency. Successive races of invaders had established their rule over the native races and their predecessors in conquest long before the age of sure history:—varied races and languages, like the fossils of geological strata, testify to the existence of convulsions which have left no other historical record. The Company, however intrusive and foreign, is not more so than the dynasty of Jagatay Turks,—or, as they were ignorantly called, the Great Moguls,—to whose empire the Lords of Leadenhall Street have succeeded; and in the great majority of instances the latter have been forced to accept this succession for the purpose of saving the natives of India from worse usurpation.

Mill's work as it originally stood was an elaborate inculcation of the entire policy pursued by the East India Company. He believed that

the ruling motives of the body from almost the first hour of its existence were commercial cupidity and a desire of territorial aggrandizement. Towards the middle, but particularly near the close, of the last century, he saw that the Company had discovered the inconsistency between trading avarice and governing ambition,—that every new acquisition of territory was a drain not a gain to the revenue. Here Mill was evidently perplexed. The law of progressive conquest against the will and contrary to the wishes of the conquerors was a political difficulty of which he did not clearly see the solution:—and this is the great desideratum which his able editor has supplied.

So far as past history is concerned these nine volumes leave little to be desired; but Prof. Wilson has most cautiously abstained from anything which could indicate his opinions of the actual present or the possible future. We must, indeed, grant that precedent goes for little in Indian history. There is probably no country existing where it is so difficult to lay down general principles; and consequently the wisest of its governors, in every crisis of its policy, have avoided searching into recondite causes and contented themselves with treating the symptoms. Hence our Government of India has to a great extent been empirical. In all cases we have sought rather to cure the specific disease than to produce such a healthy constitution as should render the recurrence of disease improbable. The history of such a course of treatment can lend little aid towards determining how the patient should be medicated in new circumstances. India is, in fact, to British statesmen a problem as perplexing as Ireland,—and would be at least equally troublesome, but for the fortunate circumstance of its much greater distance.

In a very short time we shall have to determine whether India is to be ruled by the Imperial Parliament, by an irresponsible association in Leadenhall Street, by an anomalous compound of the two authorities, or by some association of the natives with one or both in legislative and administrative functions. Prof. Wilson contends that the existing form of administration, at least down to the renewal of the Charter, has been such as to merit public confidence,—and therefore to merit continuance. Undoubtedly, the districts under the direct control of the Company are in every element of moral and physical prosperity far superior to those which remain under the government of the native princes. But a new problem has been propounded for the world's solution; that is, how far can an educated inferiority be trusted in its submission to an ascendancy if not admitted to a prospect of some future participation in the latter's power? This problem was present to such an enlightened mind as that of Prof. Wilson. There is no passage in which it is directly mooted; and yet it is suggested to the reader throughout nearly the whole of the ninth volume,—leaving the impression that its solution is most desirable and all but impossible.

British India is not a unity:—it is a congeries of many, and rather heterogeneous if not incongruous, nationalities. So long as it is thus constituted, it must continue, like the Austrian Empire, ever exposed to convulsion from within and to invasion on the part of any race cognate to one of its nationalities from without. English domination rests entirely on military force,—on the belief in our physical strength, not in our moral superiority. This is a perilous tenure. Its maintenance depends on our compromising no quarrel, yielding no concession, adjusting no difference,—but perpetually placing ourselves in the alternative of victory or expulsion. It is on this ground that Prof.

Wilson successfully defends many proceedings in the history of the Company which would otherwise be wholly without justification. But what we seek is a means of escape from such conditions of existence. They are injurious to honour, they are perilous to safety, and they have a predestined end in the natural course of human progress.

We accept Prof. Wilson's work as a most able, and on the whole a most satisfactory, vindication of the past course of British administration in India; though we regret that as a historian he has too often to act the part of a defensive advocate. But history must not be treated as an epic. The story of the Wrath of Achilles ends with his reconciliation to the Hellenic cause when he had avenged the death of the friend whom his wrath had sent to fall by the hand of Hector; but the history of British India cannot be bounded by such an artificial limit as the concession of a Charter. British India has a future; and we believe that Prof. Wilson has been induced to stop so long behind the present chiefly by his reluctance to speculate on that future. We know that there are many and valid reasons for his abstinence; but we also know that the time is not distant when the questions which he has avoided will not only be seriously mooted, but press for decided and immediate solution.

As a narrative, Wilson's continuation is superior to Mill's original history. It is more graphic, more spirited, and more simple. Mill estimated everything by the standard of Jeremy Bentham; Wilson, though equally sound in his "political economy," recognizes passion and sentiment as elements of humanity. He speaks like a man of the world, instead of lecturing as an abstract philosopher. But his abstinence from deductions is a defect which we feel throughout his three volumes. We believe that he could have helped to guide the statesman as well as to instruct the student:—and we hope that the success of the work will induce him so to extend his Continuation as to render it necessary for his "old experience" to take up "the prophetic strain," at least so far as to bring before the English public those elements in existing India which are most likely to mould and form India's futurity.

*Guide to Northern Archaeology.* By the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries of Copenhagen. Edited for the Use of English Readers, by the Right Hon. the Earl of Ellesmere. Bain.

A strong feeling is gaining ground, among those best qualified to form an opinion on the subject, that before our archaeological pursuits can produce the results which they are capable of affording we must compare with our antiquarian remains the objects of a similar nature discovered in the countries from which so many of our progenitors drew their origin—and become thoroughly acquainted with the writings of those foreign antiquaries who have made such remains the object of investigation. At such a time, therefore, it is gratifying to find a nobleman distinguished, like the Earl of Ellesmere, for his taste and literary acquirements not only giving his patronage to every endeavour that can be made to promote such knowledge of the proceedings of Continental antiquaries, but further devoting himself to the task of furnishing the English reader with a translation of the little *Guide to Northern Antiquities* published by the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries of Copenhagen.

The Museum at Copenhagen, which owes its origin to the patriotic zeal of M. Christian Jurgensen Thomsen, its distinguished curator, has not, we believe, its equal in the world as a



museum of national antiquities. It is a great object of attraction to persons of all classes; and by way of increasing at once its interest and its utility the little work here translated was drawn up—with the view, on the one hand, of explaining the nature and value of the various objects exhibited there and the illustration of the early history of the country to be deduced from them—and, on the other, of spreading abroad such a patriotic feeling for the preservation of similar objects as would prevent their destruction in future either from carelessness or from any more active cause.

As its objects were of this popular kind, the book is not so precise and full of minute detail as the professed antiquary might desire: though even to many of this rapidly increasing body it will doubtless be interesting as opening to them new views respecting the early antiquities of Scandinavia, — which resemble our own so strongly and in so many points. But its popular explanations and illustrative woodcuts render it extremely well adapted to give to ordinary readers a general view of a branch of knowledge hitherto too much neglected in this country, and to make it serve as the precursor of other works of a more strictly scientific character. The original Guide consists of two parts. The first, which treats of the "Extent and Importance of Ancient Northern Literature," is from the pen of M. Petersen: the second, which is devoted to the monuments and antiquities of the early times of the North, is written by M. Thomsen, with the assistance of Finn Magnussen and Charles C. Rafn. "This work," says Lord Ellesmere, "having come under my notice as a member of the Society, I thought that, both for the value of the information it contains, and as illustrating the systematic and intelligent zeal with which the study of antiquities has been pursued in Denmark, it would be most desirable to procure its circulation in the language of England and the United States. With this view I commented the translation: and arriving at a period of my labour when it became necessary to append the engraved illustrations, and finding that the latter could be furnished from the original blocks, I found it expedient to make over the further progress of the work to the hands which have since completed it."

But the present work has been rendered more valuable to the English reader than the original by the addition of a view of the various literary undertakings of the Copenhagen antiquaries—partly borrowed from a Report presented by the Society to its British and American members—and by an Introduction, from which we shall make a couple of extracts. The first of these will serve to show the literary and historical connexion which subsists between this country and Denmark; and so justifies the appearance of the present little volume.—

"DAN AND ANGLES, says the venerable historian, Saxo Grammaticus, WERE BROTHERS, an expression borrowed doubtless from a current popular tradition, and being in reality but a figurative statement of the fact that the Danish and English people are originally descended from the same ancestry. This fact, which, as is well known, is laid down by the old historians of England, receives familiar confirmation from the circumstance that Angeln, whence the Angles, who gave their name to England, *Anglia*, emigrated, lies, and from time immemorial has lain, within the limits of Denmark proper, and that the Jutes, or Jotes, *Juta*, whose collateral descendants, under the name of Jutlanders, still inhabit a portion of continental Denmark, were, with the Angles and Saxons, one of the confederate tribes that, on the abandonment of Britain by the Romans, migrated thither, and contributed to found the Anglo-Saxon Heptarchy. The accounts thus transmitted by the old writers are confirmed by the testimony of other

literary remains and monuments of ancient times. The Anglo-Saxon if, in its original form, it be not, strictly speaking, a dead language, has undergone very considerable changes; but the many writings in it that have reached us plainly show that it constituted an important link between the Old Teutonic and the Old-Northern, which anciently was spoken in Denmark, Norway and Sweden, but is now confined, as a living tongue, to the remote and thinly-populated island of Iceland; which was at one time the centre of its literature, and where has been preserved up to the present day a large portion of its treasure of ancient Lays, Sagas, Laws, and other important philological monuments—a treasure of immense value to all the nations of the common stock. The heathen ancestors of the Angles, of the Saxons, and of the Scandinavians had the same religion; their common deities, Tyr, Wodan, Thur, Frea, etc., still survive and are daily suggested to memory in the ordinary appellations of the days of the week common to both the leading races. The same mythic beings, guth, gud, god; álfar, elfe, ylfe, elves; vetter, white, wights; dvergur, dverch, dvergs, dwarfs; jötunn, jætter, jotnas, eótenas; tröll, trolde, trolles; thursar, thursur, thyrs; hel, hell, etc., were worshipped or feared in their times of paganism by both Anglo-Saxons and Scandinavians, and occur not only in their ancient poetical remains and other writings but also in the language, the popular superstitions, traditions and ballads of their still flourishing posterity. As both these leading races called their oldest progenitor and also the first man Ask or Æsc, so they likewise traced the family of their kings and princes to a common progenitor of divine lineage, Voda, Votan, Wöden, Oden, Othin; and likewise panegyrised in their poems the very same heroes, for example,—Volund, Weland; Vols, Vælse, Volsung; Giuke, Givica; Sigmund; Skjöld, Scyld; Halfdan, Hælfdene; Ubbe, Ufo, Offa; Wermund, Wermund; Jormunrek, Eormenic; Hrólf, Rolf, Hrothwulf; Helge, Halga, etc.; and likewise the very same races of princes or people, — for instance, Skjoldungs, Seydlings, Skyflings, Yflings, Wylfings, etc."

Our second extract relates to a literary project of so much interest and importance to the student of our early history, that we gladly give publicity to the full details which Lord Ellesmere has furnished on the subject.

"It has been the wish of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries, when its means should admit of it, to publish a collection, as complete as possible, of the Scandinavian sources of the early history of Great Britain and Ireland, in a separate work to form a companion to the two other works already undertaken by the Society, viz. 'Antiquitates Americanae' and 'Antiquités Russes et Orientales', whereof the former appeared in 1837, and the latter is in an advanced state of preparation, and the printing of it commenced in 1847. The importance of a similar collection of Antiquitates Britannicae et Hibernicae must be obvious; and it will be found of still greater importance now that access to the study of the ancient MSS. in the original language will be considerably facilitated by the publication of a Dictionary of the Old-Northern or ancient Icelandic language, on which an eminent English philologist has been for several years assiduously employed, and which is now drawing near its completion. It is not in our power to specify accurately all that such a work ought to contain; and we will therefore here merely state the following as forming a portion of its contents: a, *Jateardar Saga ens Helga*, or a history of the canonized king Edward, surnamed the Confessor.—b, *The Sagas of the Archbishops of Canterbury, Dunstan, Thomas, and Anselm*; none of these have hitherto been published.—c, *Orkneyinga Saga*, or the history of the Orkney and Shetland Isles, and partly of Scotland, from A.D. 865 to 1231; of this remarkable work there is only one edition, Copenhagen 1780, chiefly printed from a modern paper manuscript, and by no means from the celebrated *Codex Flateyensis*, written on parchment in the 14th century, which has not at all been used or consulted in its publication; this codex ought naturally to form the basis of a new edition and be collated with the other codices.—d, *Saga Magnus Eyja-earles ens Helga*, containing a minute account of the life of the earl Magnus Erlendson, who died in 1110, and was afterwards canonized and

generally worshipped in Northern Britain and Scandinavia; for a new edition of this saga, as also for the other articles, the better parchment MSS. ought to be consulted. These two last-mentioned sagas give a very luminous description of the state of political society and manners in the 10th, 11th, 12th, and beginning of the 13th centuries in the Scottish Isles, and of Scotland itself, particularly in as far as regards the districts which had been inhabited or subdued by people of Scandinavian origin, from whom the present inhabitants of the Orkneys, Shetland and Caithness, &c., chiefly descend. The life of Magnus was written in 1130, and the above-mentioned general history of the Orkneys was compiled, doubtless in part from much more ancient writings, about 1240; these two works are therefore considerably older than that of any native Scottish historian.—e, An account of *Helge and Ulf*, inhabitants of the Orkneys, from an ancient manuscript written on skin. Extracts from Icelandic historical works of the middle ages relating to the history of England, Scotland, and Ireland, viz. from the following important works:—f, *Snerre Sturlason's* celebrated *Heimskringla*, or *Sagas of the kings of Norway*;—g, the *Lundánabók of Iceland*, called also *Liber originum Islandia*, containing the history of the earliest colony and colonists in Iceland, those portions of it which relate to natives of Britain or Ireland, who during the 8th, 9th, or 10th centuries had established themselves in Iceland.—h, *Extracts from many other Sagas and Annals of the kings of Norway and Denmark*, also of Icelandic warriors, scalds, &c., and other distinguished men, who during the middle ages have had any connexion with England, Scotland or Ireland.—i, *Extracts from the ancient Historians and Chronicles of Denmark and Sweden*; also chronological annotations.—k, *Remarkable Diplomas* of the middle ages, issued in the Orkney or Shetland Isles, or in Iceland, Norway, Sweden, or Denmark, having reference to Britain or Ireland, of which a great part have not hitherto been published.—l, *Northern Runes*, inscriptions relating to the expeditions of the Northmen to the British islands, or which in any way concern those countries or their inhabitants. The Icelandic or Old-Northern text ought to be accompanied by a correct translation; and the whole elucidated both by philological and historical remarks and explanations, and with geographical and historical disquisitions. A work of this description ought likewise to be furnished with one or more maps of Britain and Ireland, and the smaller isles appertaining to them, furnished with the ancient Scandinavian names of places, districts, rivers, etc.; also with fac-similes to serve as specimens of the oldest MSS. on skin of the most important historical documents. Such a work cannot well be much longer postponed, inasmuch as the MSS., besides being liable to perish from accidents, are daily becoming more and more faint, or mouldering away from age, so that they incur the risk of soon becoming illegible and unavailing for the purpose of a correct publication. When a greater degree of attention shall be bestowed in the British Islands on the undertakings of the Society and a greater degree of interest awakened for the matter in question, it is to be expected that the Society will thereby be enabled to realize such a plan, to which end it is hoped that the present 'Guide to Northern Archaeology' will also contribute its share."

We repeat, that by this translation Lord Ellesmere has rendered good service to the cause of British Archaeology.

Sweden from the time of Charles the Twelfth to that of Oscar the First.—[Les Suédois, &c.] By the Vicomte de Beaumont-Vassy.

OUR former notice of this work [*Athenæum*, No. 1033, p. 853] left Gustavus the Third in that happy crisis of his fortunes which followed his return from Paris, and was marked by his gift of valuable institutions to his now prospering country. In 1786 he convoked the first assembly of the states which was held under the new constitution,—and was much mortified by the opposition which all his projects received from the Diet. Irritated against the states, suspecting that Russian gold had been employed to thwart his objects, and

perhaps desirous to exhibit the strength of his royal prerogative, he unexpectedly declared war against Russia in the May of 1788, at a time when all the forces of that empire were engaged against Turkey. Had Gustavus been seconded by his officers nothing could have saved St. Petersburg. The victory off Hogland, though rather dubious, had given the Swedes the command of the sea. The fort of Fredericks-haam, the last defence of the Russian capital, was on the point of yielding to a double assault, when a mutiny broke out in the Swedish camp. The principal officers declared that they could not take part in a war which had not received the sanction of the states. The King appealed to the soldiers; but they had been previously gained by the mutineers, and the regiments of Finland when ordered to march broke their ranks and piled their arms. The King returned to Stockholm, and assembled the Diet. He obtained fresh powers from that body, and by the aid of Prussia and England compelled Denmark to observe neutrality; but still his second campaign was unfortunate. When within five miles of St. Petersburg, a series of misfortunes deprived him of the aid of his fleet. He was forced not only to retreat, but to expose his followers to the extremity of famine. In the following campaign the Swedes were victorious both by land and sea: but their country was exhausted—no subsidies arrived from abroad—and consequently Gustavus reluctantly consented to make peace with Catherine. The treaty was signed August 14th, 1790,—and the terms were far more favourable to Sweden than the King had any reason to expect.

When the French Revolution burst forth, Gustavus, whose attachment to Louis XVI. was almost fraternal, sought eagerly to be placed at the head of an allied army to march to Paris and restore the monarchy. While in Germany, endeavouring to form such a coalition, the unfortunate result of the flight to Varennes disconcerted all his arrangements, and at the same time intelligence of the progress of revolutionary principles in Sweden recalled him to Stockholm. The oligarchy had conspired to effect a new revolution in the name of liberty. This was not the first time that the name of freedom has been used as a pretext for the restoration of oppressive privileges. Republicanism has had crimes laid to its charge which belonged solely to oligarchy:—and that which we are about to relate is of the number.

The Swedish nobles never forgot that it was to the assassination of Charles XII. they were indebted for their brief period of mischievous ascendancy:—by similar means they resolved to seek its restoration. Several nobles, including the Counts Horn and Ribbing, united to a number of discontented officers, of whom the most remarkable was the superseded Captain Anckerstroem,\* resolved to assassinate Gustavus,—and eagerly sought their opportunity. On one occasion Horn and Anckerstroem had penetrated the grounds of the country palace at Haga, and had prepared to shoot the King in his study, which was on the ground-floor; but on looking through the window they judged, from the rigidity of his appearance, that he had fallen into a fit of apoplexy, and that their projected crime would consequently be unnecessary. On the 16th of March, 1792, Gustavus having taken an early dinner at Haga, came into Stockholm to attend a masked ball at the Opera House. He remained some time in the private apartments reserved for his use; and while giving audience to some of his nobles, an anonymous letter was put into his hands warning him of the plot that had been

framed for his destruction. He showed it to the Count D'Essen; who advised him at once to return to Haga, or at least to wear a cuirass under his domino. From seven till midnight the dancing was kept up with great spirit; but soon after the clock had struck twelve, the King, leaning on the arm of Count D'Essen, proceeded to take a promenade through the rooms. As he reached the middle of one of these, by a preconcerted arrangement two crowds coming in opposite directions hemmed him round, and created considerable confusion. At the same instant Count Horn, also masked, pretending not to know the King, struck him on the shoulder, saying, "Good night, fair mask." This was the signal agreed upon between the Count and Anckerstroem. As the words were spoken, a pistol shot was heard, and the King fell into the arms of Count D'Essen.—

The first words of Gustavus were "I have been shot by some one in a black mask!" But at the same moment, several of the conspirators at the remote end of the saloon shouted out "Fire! Fire! the roof is about to fall!" at the same time rushing towards the staircase, followed by the terrified crowd. The sight was equally strange and terrible; all the masks rushing out of the saloon and down a staircase from which the balustrade had been removed to make room for pedestals placed at intervals, on which grenadiers stood in the attitudes of statues. Several of these unhappy soldiers were overthrown, and their shrieks mingled with the cries of terror raised from all sides; while every one struggled to escape from the saloon.

But M. de Polett had been beforehand with them. So soon as the King fell, he had rushed out, collected the most faithful troops to guard every outlet, and summoned the chief of police to his assistance. Gustavus had sufficient strength to direct that the gates and port of Stockholm should be secured, and that no one should quit the ball-room before giving his name and address to the chief of police. This formality was executed with great calmness and regularity, though there were nearly eight hundred persons to examine. As the crowd dispersed, a case of pistols and a Turkish dagger were found close to the spot where the King had been struck; and these afforded the only clue to the discovery of the assassin.

Gustavus survived several days. The assassin and his accomplices were detected on the day succeeding the murder. An armourer recognized the pistols, which were of English manufacture, as a pair which he had sold to Anckerstroem. Orders were instantly issued for his arrest; he was seized in his bed, and when brought before the magistrates, he at once avowed his crime. He gloried in the deed, and affected to regard himself as a martyr. The only regret which he expressed was at the length of time that the King survived. "I wished to kill, but not to torture, him," he said; and when, on the 29th of March, the minute guns announced the termination of the royal sufferings, he exclaimed, "Thank God! he endures pain no longer. May his Creator have mercy on his soul! Now I can die; my task is accomplished."

The sentence passed on Anckerstroem was that he should on three successive days receive fifteen stripes, and then be pilloried in different parts of the city; on the fourth day his hand and head were to be struck off, his body quartered, and his remains exposed on the wheel. A strange controversy arose about the execution of the sentence. The populace fondly, indeed almost madly, attached to a King who had rescued them from the tyranny of the oligarchy, took up the notion that the influence of the nobility was exerted to mitigate the punishment awarded. Anckerstroem, who appears to have been a man of iron nerve, bore the first day's punishment without flinching. On the second

day, the mob threatened to tear the executioners in pieces if they did not strike hard; and though the wretch writhed and groaned as each lash laid bare cicatrised wounds, they menaced the executioners with vengeance for exhibiting too much leniency. On the third day they were satisfied; the yells of the sufferer at each stroke of the rods were frightful, and each cry was answered by the multitude with a shout of savage satisfaction. It was a relief to Anckerstroem to die. On the fourth day, he hastened through the usual preliminaries,—and made a run to place his hand and head on the block. But so long as his remains were exposed, the gibbet became a place of pilgrimage to the discontented nobility,—and the mangled body was buried to prevent its becoming the rallying point of new disaffection.

Gustavus IV. was only thirteen years of age when he ascended the throne of Sweden. His greatest misfortune was that he had been over-educated; more had been placed on the mind than it was able to bear, and intellect yielded to the pressure. Believing himself born to be the regenerator of Europe, he set himself up as a rival to Napoleon, and fairly challenged the world to decide between the two. Bonaparte, instead of laughing at him, assailed the royal pedant in the *Moniteur*. This official organ said of the young King of Sweden, "He will never be able to wield the sword of Charles XII., from whom he inherits nothing but his madness and his boots." The conduct of Gustavus IV. when he declared war justified the sarcasm. His troops were not put in motion until after Russia and France had concluded the treaty of Tilsit, and had resolved to deprive Sweden of Finland for the reward of the former and Pomerania for the benefit of the latter. England sent to his aid a considerable fleet, and an army of fifteen thousand men under the command of Sir John Moore. Gustavus, unable to defend his own states, proposed to the English general an attack upon Copenhagen and the occupation of Norway. Sir John Moore remonstrated, and finally refused. The King challenged him to personal combat. Moore, who had little respect for the poetry of madness, re-embarked his troops, and returned home; whereupon Gustavus laid an embargo on all the English property in his dominions. Thus depriving himself of his only ally, he braved the hostility of France, Denmark, and Russia. It was the general belief of Europe in the beginning of 1809, that Sweden was about to be divided between these three powers. It would be an abuse of words to say that the dethronement of Gustavus was the result of a conspiracy: it was a general movement of the nation to remove a ruler utterly unfit to reign. Gustavus was arrested by the officers of his own guard, at the first news of a military revolt raised by Colonel Adlersparre. General Adlercreutz was anxious to save the King up to the last moment; and when he entered the palace appears to have had some hopes that Gustavus would yield to the remonstrances of his officers. But the King, at the first appearance of disobedience to his will, drew his sword, and would have struck the general but for the interference of Silversparre, who wrested the sword from his hand. Finding himself disarmed, the King raised the cry of "Treason!" The household troops ran to his rescue; but Adlercreutz hastily seizing the *bâton* of the adjutant-general, met them on the stairs, and had declared that they were only endeavouring to persuade the King not to quit his capital. The violence of temper in which Gustavus indulged was so notorious, that the guards retired perfectly satisfied. But during the confusion occasioned by this incident Gustavus escaped

\* It is hardly necessary to say that the motives ascribed to Anckerstroem by Scribe, and his English translator, in a well-known opera, are mere fictions.



through a door which opened on a private staircase leading to the court of the castle.

The flight of the king was likely to involve the efforts of the insurgents in dangerous complications. Adlercreutz sent two officers in pursuit, but the King had too much the start of them; he reached the court and ran towards the gate which remained open. Grieff, the chief of the huntsmen, luckily met him, and advanced to seize him. Gustavus, who had procured a sword, struck at the captain, but only cut the sleeve of his coat and gave him a slight wound. Grieff, who was strong and vigorous, sprang upon Gustavus, lifted him from the ground, and carried him off in his arms. The grasp was so violent that the King, exhausted by his race, and overwhelmed by mental agitation, nearly fainted and was seized with violent spasms. A great number of the insurgents then came down the staircases of the palace, hoping to reach the court more quickly than Gustavus. The Pomeranian soldiers, astonished at these extraordinary movements, crowded round to learn the cause. "Make way," said Grieff, who was advancing towards the stairs, "the King has been taken suddenly ill, as you see; and I am carrying him to his apartments."

The insurgents were now, much to their own surprise, complete masters of the government; but having formed no definite plan they were at a loss to determine what should be done next. After some hesitation, it was resolved to offer the regency to the King's uncle, the Duke of Sundermanian, and to induce Gustavus to abdicate in favour of his son. But on the same day a council of nobles held at the house of Count Wackmeister, minister of justice, unanimously resolved that neither Gustavus nor his descendants could reign over Sweden without endangering the safety of the country. The Duke of Sundermanian was unwilling in the morning to accept the regency,—and still more reluctant to take the crown in the afternoon; but the Russians were advancing on Stockholm,—the Danes were preparing to restore the Union of Calmar,—and every hour of delay was pregnant with danger. The duke, therefore, consenting to act as regent, concluded an armistice with the Russians, and convoked an assembly of the States.

At the opening of the Diet a formal abdication signed by Gustavus was presented to the States,—and the throne was declared vacant. Adlercreutz and his party proposed that the young prince should be proclaimed king under the regency of the Duke of Sundermanian. Adlersparre heading the majority procured a decree declaring that Gustavus and his descendants had forfeited all right to the throne of Sweden. The Duke of Sundermanian was declared king, with the title of Charles XIII. A pension of about 15,000*l.* per annum was settled on Gustavus,—and he was set at liberty to go wherever he pleased. He travelled from the Castle of Grissholm to Ystad without guard or escort; those who passed him on the road saluted him respectfully, but not a single acclamation cheered his course. After a delay of a week at Ystad,—where he was detained by contrary winds, but where his presence excited no other emotion than curiosity,—he crossed over to Stralsund, and proceeded thence to Carlsruhe. Such was the Swedish Revolution of 1809.

As the Duke of Sundermanian had no children and was very old, the States found it necessary to nominate his successor. They elected Prince Christian of Holstein-Augustenburg, who had commanded the Danish army in the recent invasion of Sweden:—and a better choice could hardly have been made. Peace was obtained from Russia by the sacrifice of Finland and the Isles of Aland. In announcing these terms to the States, Charles XIII. sadly said:—

Without the revolution which annihilated a will too obstinate to calculate obstacles, this ancient kingdom, so long triumphant over Time and Destiny,

would probably have ceased to exist. It is thirteen years since I delivered to my nephew the kingdom as tranquil as I had received it from my dying brother: I hoped to see Sweden, under a paternal government, increase in strength and prosperity. Alas! under existing circumstances I am not charged with the preservation of a flourishing monarchy. I have rather to give peace and repose to a realm which contains perilous elements of dissolution.

Prince Christian arrived in Sweden in January 1810. He took the oaths as Crown-Prince,—and in the course of a few weeks acquired unexampled popularity. On the 10th of May he made a tour through the southern provinces. On the 28th, while inspecting a brigade of cavalry at Helsingborg, he was struck with a fit of apoplexy, and fell from his horse; he was a dead man before his head touched the earth. Fearful riots accompanied the Prince's funeral. The populace of Stockholm, persuaded that he had been poisoned by some friends of the exiled family, attacked the houses of several of the suspected nobles. The venerable Count de Fersen was torn to pieces by the excited mob, and the lives of many others were only saved by the prompt interference of the military.

It was obviously necessary to elect a new Crown-Prince as speedily as possible. Three candidates were named; the Prince of Augustenbourg, brother of the late Crown-Prince, who had the support of Russia,—the King of Denmark, who was favoured by Napoleon,—and the Duke of Oldenbourg, who was brought forward by Adlercreutz and his party. A young lieutenant, the Baron Otho de Moerner, who had been sent with despatches from Charles XIII. to Napoleon, found it generally believed in Paris that the King of Denmark would be the successful candidate. Remembering how fatal the Union of Calmar had been to Sweden, he resolved at all hazards to avert a similar calamity; and having consulted M. Lignuel, the Swedish consul, he went to Charles John Bernadotte, Prince of Port Corvo, inviting him to offer himself as a candidate, and promising him the support of the army. Having obtained Bernadotte's assent, he communicated what he had done to the Swedish envoys; and leaving them to arrange this unexpected complication of affairs as best they might, posted home with the utmost speed in order to escape the French police put in motion to arrest him at the instigation of the Swedish embassy. On his arrival at Stockholm, he communicated what he had done to his friends. They all approved his choice; and before the Diet could assemble at Erebro, the voice of the army was declared in favour of Bernadotte. After many changes of opinion, the Diet made the same choice, which was confirmed by the general approbation of the people of Sweden. On the 19th of October, Bernadotte, having firmly resisted every attempt of Napoleon to bring him under vassalage, arrived in Sweden; and declared that the first object of his life would be to secure the independence of the country by which he had been so generously adopted. His sincerity was soon put to the test. M. Alquier, the French ambassador, began to act more like a Roman proconsul in a conquered province than as envoy in an independent court. The Crown-Prince firmly resisted these encroachments; and in a few months the relations between France and Sweden began to assume a doubtful, and even hostile, character. Early in January 1812, a French army invaded and occupied Swedish Pomerania:—in the following March Sweden concluded an alliance with Russia and England. Neutrality was observed during the advance of the French into Russia; but on learning their entrance into Moscow, Bernadotte foresaw the calamities which were about to fall on Napoleon, and pre-

pared to take an active part in the war of liberation. A new treaty was concluded with England; by which Sweden engaged to place a contingent of thirty thousand men at the disposal of the Allied Powers,—while England agreed to restore the island of Guadaloupe, to grant a subsidy of twenty-five millions, and to approve the union of Norway with Sweden. On the 18th of May 1813, Charles John landed at Stralsund at the head of the stipulated number of men. We need not enter into any history of the war; it is sufficient to say that the allies rewarded the services of the Crown-Prince by taking Norway from Denmark and annexing it to Sweden. The Norwegians resisted the transfer,—and took up arms to assert their independence; but overcame as much by the gentleness as by the firmness of Bernadotte they reconciled themselves to their fate,—and on the 4th of November the Norwegian Storting, or Diet, unanimously recognized the King of Sweden as their sovereign. Charles XIII. died February 5th, 1818,—and Bernadotte became King of Norway and Sweden with the title of Charles XIV. His reign was one uniform course of political and social improvement. The country, when Gustavus was dethroned, seemed doomed to inevitable ruin; but the Crown-Prince and King Charles John gradually restored its finances, paid off its foreign debt, removed the unwise restrictions of its tariff, introduced an efficient system of national education, and more than doubled the industrial resources of the country. The king died on the 8th of March 1844, and was succeeded by his son Oscar I.—the reigning sovereign of Sweden and Norway.

King Oscar is the author of an admirable work on prison discipline,—in which the relations between crime and punishment are more philosophically discussed than they have been by any writer since the days of Beccaria. He is a generous patron of literature and the arts; possesses great skill as an architect and engineer, which he applies to improving the internal communications of his two kingdoms; and is said to have nearly ready for the press a treatise on the science of legislation—a subject to which he has devoted much attention.

We believe that Sweden is destined, at no distant date, to occupy an important position in the European commonwealth. United to Norway, it forms a compact and firm kingdom—the northern bulwark of Europe against the encroachments of Russia. Its mercantile marine is the best in the world. No one is allowed to take any command on board a merchant vessel whose competency has not been ascertained by a public examination;—and hence the merchantships of Sweden, and still more those of Norway, command higher freights than those of England and America. Oscar is more Swedish in feeling than the Swedes themselves. His efforts are continually directed to develop and strengthen feelings of nationality in the country over which he reigns:—and hence his subjects regard him not so much with loyalty as with personal and individual affection.

It is hardly necessary to add, that we have been much pleased by the work of the Viscount de Beaumont-Vassy. It is one of the most impartial and trustworthy works on modern history that has issued from the French press. It is replete with important facts and exciting incidents,—related in a style the more effective from a total absence of pretence.

*A Monograph of the British Naked-eyed Medusa.* With Figures of all the Species. By Prof. E. Forbes. Printed for the Ray Society. This beautiful volume is a worthy companion to the 'Monograph on the British Nudibranchiate Mollusca' by Messrs. Alder and Han-



cock,—published also by the Ray Society. It is presented, we find, to the subscribers for the year 1847 in addition to the volumes already issued—a 'Report on the Progress of Zoology,' and Mr. Tulk's translation of Oken's 'Physio-Philosophy.' When we see the present work illustrated with thirteen beautiful coloured plates,—and recollect that these are given in addition to nearly fourteen hundred pages of letter-press,—we think the members of the Ray Society have little to complain of.

The subjects of the present work, although familiarly known under the name of jelly-fishes, have been but imperfectly studied by zoologists. This fact has arisen both from the imperfect state of the specimens examined, and from their exceedingly fragile and perishing nature. But Prof. Forbes—who has contributed so largely to the science of Zoology by the use of the dredge, which sweeps the bottom of the ocean—has been not less successful in the use of the tow-net, by which the delicate creatures belonging to this family of animals have been successfully captured. Although looking more like masses of organized water than anything else when moving in the sea, and frequently presenting a structure so transparent that they can be seen only by their shadows reflected on the bottom of the vessel in which they are placed, they have nevertheless a complicated structure which the microscope alone is capable of unravelling. Amongst other organs, these creatures possess eyes—or, at any rate, parts that look like a first rude attempt at the manufacture of those organs. They are either covered over with a hood or lid, or some such apparatus, or else entirely naked. Hence a division in the family;—and it is to the portion incapable of hoodworking—by far the largest—that Mr. Forbes addresses himself. Comparatively few of the animals of this class had been previously described, and those most imperfectly:—so that the present work contains a large amount of matter not hitherto published. Those who are acquainted with the zoological labours of Prof. E. Forbes will not need to be told that his descriptions are accurate, and that his illustrations and conclusions can be relied on. So fully is the subject treated and mastered, that it appears to us to leave but little to be wished for. Our readers must not, however, suppose that this is a dry detail of the structure of these invisible inhabitants of the ocean. Each species of jelly-fish has its own little personal history, as well as its relation to the author, which gives to Prof. Forbes's accounts of the animals an interest entirely independent of zoology. Here is a little bit of personal experience, in which all must sympathize, and conveying a moral that none should neglect. The animal spoken of has the very euphonious name of *Stomobrachium octocostatum*.—

"Of all our British naked-eyed Medusæ, I know least about the family to which the curious and elegant creature before us belongs. As yet we have only two members of it to record—this and a beautiful jelly fish discovered by Mr. Alder. The latter I have never seen myself; the former I have not met with since my first season's study of Medusæ in 1839, when, though I made careful drawings of it, I did not examine its minute structure, trusting to meet with it again, as it seemed to be one of the most abundant of its tribe. Too often do we thus put aside unexamined what seems common and always at hand; too often do we regret our inattention when the opportunity is gone; and this with more serious subjects (some could add with objects even more beautiful) than Medusæ."

We trust Prof. Forbes will not have to regret all his life these lost opportunities with Medusæ,—and "objects even more beautiful."

The reproduction of these creatures has re-

cently afforded an interesting subject for discussion among naturalists. In some instances they are produced like buds on a tree, which eventually drop off.—

"What strange and wondrous changes! Fancy an elephant with a number of little elephants sprouting from his shoulders and thighs, bunches of tusked monsters hanging epaulette-fashion from his flanks in every stage of advancement! Here a young pachyderm almost amorphous, there one more advanced, but all ears and eyes; on the right shoulder a youthful Chuny, with head, trunk, toes, no legs, and a shapeless body; on the left an infant, better grown, and struggling to get away, but his tail not sufficiently organized as yet to permit of liberty and free action! The comparison seems grotesque and absurd, but it really expresses what we have been describing as actually occurring among our naked-eyed Medusæ. It is true that the latter are minute, but wonders are not the less wonderful for being packed into small compass. The multitude, being muddle-headed, love magnitude, but the philosopher does not estimate a whale above a minnow for his mere bigness: 'Nosci digna hec animalcula, non quia Deus maximus in minimis est, seque enim magnus in omnibus, at ob eximiam membrorum exilitatem, miram organorum diversitatem, varia Creatoris eundem finem obtinenda media et pulchritudinem et proportionem quam nihil excellit.' So wrote Otho Frederic Müller—filled, by his studies of minute life, with a deep spirit of reverence and admiration of his monouci; so might we write of our Medusæ. But when to all the wonders of their structure are added such surprising physical facts as those which we have just been narrating concerning their reproduction, the spirit of reverent astonishment fills us fuller and fuller. 'La force qui développe, l'intelligence qui spécifie et co-ordonne, l'amour qui unit et vivifie'—the trine powers manifested in each and every being, in each single and all combined, are revealed as clearly in our little *Sarsia*, as in the mightiest monster of the ocean, beneath whose shadow it may swim invisible to the unarmed eye. And when we behold how its perpetuity in that ocean is secured, we are tempted to explain with Spenser—

Wonder it is to see  
How diversely Love doth his pageants play,  
And shewes his powre in variable kinds."

"Explain" is here evidently a misprint for *exclaim*:—to which, with many others, we would draw the author's attention, as a warning to be more careful in his future corrections of the press. The creatures thus thrown off from the mother's sides are sometimes so unlike her as to have been described as other animals; but, what is more singular still, they never grow like their mother, but deposit eggs, which again produce creatures not like their mothers, but like their grandmothers. These singular facts have given rise to the theory of the "alternation of generations,"—which appears to be more generally applicable than was at first supposed. An attempt has been made in this country to invalidate this theory, and to depreciate the merits of its learned enunciator, Prof. Steenstrup; and we are glad to see that Prof. Forbes has brought to bear his great knowledge of facts in this family, on the defence of both.

We might extract much interesting matter from this volume on the habits of these creatures; but as their power of stinging is best known, and excites most alarm, we give the following account.—

"In the minds of most people who have been at the sea-side the notion of a *Medusa* naturally associates itself with that of a nettle, since both the animal and the plant enjoy an equal reputation for their stinging powers, and for the production of an extremely similar, though not the less unpleasant sensation, when incautiously handled or inadvertently touched. The term *Acalepha*, so frequently applied to the whole of the *Medusa* tribe, is significant of their nettle-like nature. Yet it is not improbable that this offensive faculty of stinging is possessed by only a small minority of the sea-jellies—a minority

chiefly, if not wholly, composed of the *Steganophthalma* species. Among them the *Cyanea capillata* of our seas is a most formidable creature, and the terror of tender-skinned bathers. With its broad, tawny, festooned, and scalloped disk, often a full foot or even more across, it flaps its way through the yielding waters, and drags after it a long train of riband-like arms, and seemingly interminable tails, marking its course when the body is far away from us. Once tangled in its trailing 'hair,' the unfortunate who has recklessly ventured across the graceful monster's path, too soon writhes in prickly torture. Every struggle but binds the poisonous threads more firmly round his body, and then there is no escape; for when the winder of the fatal net finds his course impeded by the terrified human wrestling in its coils, he, seeking no combat with the mightier biped, casts loose his venomous arms and swims away. The amputated weapons severed from their parent body vent vengeance on the cause of their destruction, and sting as fiercely as if their original proprietor itself gave the word of attack. The *Cyanea Lamarekii* possesses a like dangerous power, and *Pelagia cyanea* also, though very faintly, as I have experienced. But, unless *Chrysaora hyosocella* sting, no other Medusæ of our seas besides those mentioned, have been observed, at least by me, or naturalists known to me, to possess this noxious property. I have in vain endeavoured to elicit such nettling proofs of rage in any of the naked-eyed species, though I have stirred, and grasped, and rubbed together hundreds of them belonging to many genera. It is right, however, to notice this matter, for it may yet be found that either at particular seasons, or under peculiar circumstances, more than one species can sting. Diquemare has stated that certain species of *Oceania* sting, though very slightly, and only when they come in contact with very sensitive parts, such as the eyes. Not being ambitious of suffering stone-blindness by playing too closely with even the smallest gorgon's head, I have never ventured to repeat the worthy Abbé's experiment, and prefer keeping my eyes intact to poking Medusæ into them. For such rash experiments, Ben Jonson's song might be paraphrased—

O do not wanton with those eyes,  
Lest you be sick with seeing.

—and not bad advice either."

We cannot conclude without expressing our belief that Natural History would speedily become a much more popular science if all naturalists took the same interest in their subject and wrote with the same enthusiasm as Prof. E. Forbes. Already do we long to be at the sea-side with our tow-nets, for the purpose of bringing these watery beauties in under our eyes. Already in imagination have we drawn up *Modeeria*, with its spiral arms—*Oceania*, with its bright liquid colours—and *Sarsia*, with its young family at its sides. But this for editors is a dream:—we can only recommend those to do so who are more fortunate than ourselves.

*The Jesuit Conspiracy. The Secret Plan of the Order. Detected and revealed by the Abbate Leone. With a Preface by M. Victor Considérant. Chapman & Hall.*

M. Victor Considérant has prefixed an able preface to this work,—in which he maintains with much ingenuity the cogency of Leone's evidence respecting the Jesuit conference and conspiracy. We have carefully examined that evidence,—and have arrived at the very opposite conclusion. We believe that the accounts given of the alleged conference are mere inventions, and that the speeches ascribed to the Jesuit conspirators contain the most obvious marks of falsification.

Leone declares that he entered the Jesuit convent of Chieri against the will of his parents,—that during his novitiate he was most closely watched by his confessor,—and that the discipline of the monastery was so strict that he could not venture to walk in the garden with-

out the permission of the rector. Proceeding one evening to ask this permission, he found the door of the rector's chamber open although he was himself absent. Leone entered to await his return, and after some time sauntered with a kind of lazy curiosity into an inner chamber which served as a library. He found that the books were ranged three deep on the shelves; and searching out what the last row contained, he found a manuscript volume entitled 'Confessions of the Novices.' He turned to his own name in this record, and found that every minute particular which he had confided to his confessor had been carefully registered. He searched further, and found a volume entitled 'Confessions of Strangers,'—another, 'Revenues, Acquisitions, and Expenses'—a third, 'Enemies of the Society.' No reason is assigned for the preservation of such records in Chieri rather than in any other Jesuit establishment,—no explanation is given of the carelessness which left their search possible to intruders,—and no special case of individual record is mentioned which could be subjected to the test of examination.

While Leone was thus engaged, the Rector returned accompanied by several other Jesuit fathers. They secured the outer door, but did not take the precaution of looking into the library,—and immediately commenced a conference, of several hours' duration, which, if authentic, can be considered nothing less than an atrocious conspiracy against the civil and religious liberties of Europe.

Leone professes that he took notes of this conference, remaining all the time undetected in the library; but if he has given a true account of his discoveries in the library, the documents which he has described would have been so important for reference during the discussion that it is inexplicable why they should not have been produced in the consultation. We cannot believe in all the strange coincidences necessary to establish the credibility of the story:—the sending Leone to the Rector at all when such an important conference was about to be held, the existence of the most important registers in an open and unguarded library,—the selection of Chieri as the place of conference,—the neglect of searching the rooms before the secrets of the conspiracy were discussed,—the neglect of documents most important to guide the decisions of the conspirators,—and the little attention paid at such a crisis to the mysterious absence of Leone.

Turning from the external to the internal evidence, we can discover no reason why any such conference should be held. The pretended conspirators, instead of proceeding like men of business to organize the practical details of a plot, are represented as making long and vague speeches against Bible societies, instruction by the state, latitudinarianism, and the efforts made by some of the secular clergy in Germany and Italy to relax the strictness of celibacy. In a club of Irish confederates such a waste of time in idle declamation may be very possible; but assuredly eight or ten Jesuit conspirators, met together to establish a democracy, would have employed themselves more rationally than in emulating the puerilities of a debating society.

To the minutes of the conference is subjoined what is called a series of proofs that the sentiments and opinions ascribed to the respective speakers are really entertained by the great body of the Jesuits. It is hardly possible to read the quotations without being convinced that they have furnished the hints for the imaginary speeches. The interlocutor described as an Irish Jesuit has nothing Irish about him; his language and reasoning belong to the Seminary at Lyons. He is made to speak of O'Connell as

a Propagandist would of Montalembert; and the account which he is made to give of education in Ireland is utterly inapplicable to that country, but is applicable to the south of France and north of Italy. Let us quote a specimen of what is intended to be peculiarly Irish.—

"We shall know how, by marvellous stories and gorgeous shows, to exorcise heresy from the heads and hearts of the multitude; we shall know how to nail their thoughts upon ours (*inchiodare sui nostri i di lei pensieri*), so that they shall make no stir without our good pleasures. Then the Bible, that serpent which, with head erect and eyes flashing fire, threatens us with its venom whilst it trails along the ground, shall be changed again into a rod as soon as we are able to seize it; and what wounds will we not inflict with it upon these hardened Pharos and their cunning magicians! what miracles will we not work by its means! Oh, then, mysterious rod! we will not again suffer thee to escape from our hands, and fall to the earth! For you know but too well that, for three centuries past, this cruel asp (*crudele aspid*) has left us no repose; you well know with what folds it entwines us, and with what fangs it gnaws us! We may recognise in this language a mind embittered and rankling with resentment against the English Bible Societies. He must often have encountered them in his path, and felt enraged at their influence. His savage expressions were received with a dry and forced laugh, quite different from the spontaneous gaiety before exhibited."

Now, the Jesuits in Ireland never have any gorgeous shows; they reject the Protestant translation of the Scriptures, but profess and manifest great veneration for the Bible; and twenty years have elapsed since the Romish priests of Ireland have had to maintain a struggle against the proselytising influence of Bible societies. The metaphorical is not Irish in its character,—it is too forced and laboured; and we doubt if even the most figurative of Irish orators would use such clap-trap while concocting a conspiracy.

Enough has been said to show that the tale of the Secret Conference is not supported by a particle of external or internal evidence. M. Victor Considérant is obliged to confess that it is open to much suspicion; but he insists that even if we reject the tale of the Conference we must confess that the sentiments and doctrines of the Jesuits are fairly represented. This is a discussion into which we are not called on to enter. Leone does not profess to demonstrate the existence of a conspiracy by induction from Jesuit publications;—he declares that a specific plot was formed at a certain time and at a certain place. If the overt act be unproved, we have no need to trouble ourselves with the secondary evidence adduced in its support.

M. Considérant declares that "no art could create" the speeches ascribed to the interlocutors. We believe that they could have been created "by many men, by many women, and by many children." They are a mixture of ridiculous hopes and audacious conceptions, such as novices love to speculate upon, but such as men of mature intellect would never bring under discussion.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

*Statement relative to the British Museum.* By Thomas Hawkins.—Mr. Hawkins sold a collection of Saurians to the British Museum, and this collection has in his opinion been badly kept. We cannot enter into the merits of this complaint, because Mr. Hawkins comes before us with such strange abuse of language and language of abuse that we are not prepared to admit that any statement of his can constitute a *prima facie* case until he shall amend these excesses. He tells us that he feels "a religious fear... in only naming" the Trustees of the British Museum, because they are the guardian priesthood of a fane dedicated to the Most High God. But he adds that there is another feeling which "traverses" his respect for the Trustees "at right angles." We have heard constantly of *acute*

and *obtus* feelings,—so, feelings at right angles may be permitted: of course they lie between the other two. But though Mr. Hawkins names the Trustees with religious fear, he has a most profane courage in his way of speaking of their officers,—whom, to be consistent, he ought to consider as at least in deacons' orders. "Murderous coward"—"rascal"—"mischievous villain"—are his phrases with respect to one of them. He calls upon the Trustees to remove an announcement fixed to one of his Saurians. "For your own sakes," says he, "take it down, or blood will come of it." He means that he will challenge somebody: if he do, we hope a criminal information will cross his path at right angles, and that the challenge being set off on one line and a conviction by twelve men on the other, the line joining the extremities of the parts cut off will be six months' imprisonment. The only possible excuse for him is, that the same more than ordinary energy which put him in possession of a splendid Saurian museum of his own collection at the age of twenty-seven may—under excitement—be thought to have led naturally to more than ordinary overstepping of the bounds of sense and decorum. "My breath from ancient ears, my blood from men renowned," says Mr. Hawkins of himself. Be it so; but pray, Mr. Hawkins, spare the first, and let the second continue to run up and down in its present bailiwick—and at less of a pace—until you shall have consulted some judicious friend upon the best method of putting your complaint into a form fit for reasonable men to examine. As you stand, nothing more than your own statement is necessary to make any man who knows the world think it a thousand to one that you are in the wrong.

*Some Suggestions for the Formation of a System of general Emigration, and for the Disposal of Convicts in the Colonies.* By W. H. G. Kingston.—A tract described by its writer as "hurriedly written":—and after perusing it we know not how we could more accurately render an account of its confused and commonplace remarks. We notice nothing of novelty or force in Mr. Kingston's exposition.

*Principles of Textual Criticism; with their Application to the Old and New Testament.* By J. Scott Porter.—This is a sound and valuable work. Mr. Porter has condensed into his volume all that is accurately known of the critical history of the received text of the Bible; and he has candidly stated the difficulties that remain to be solved and the doubts which still require to be elucidated. Mr. Porter seems disposed to prefer the Samaritan to the Masoretic text as the standard for the Hebrew; and he strenuously maintains that the Samaritan character was that first used in the Bible, though he doubts of the change having been made immediately after the return of the Jews from the Babylonian captivity. The evidence which he has collected leaves the balance of probability in his favour,—but his conclusion is not impregnable. Some of his examinations of disputed passages display great learning and acuteness, united to a degree of candour and moderation not always found in discussing Biblical controversies.

*Practical Introduction to H. Rose's Treatise on Chemical Analysis.* By A. Normandy.—This "Introduction" explains with much precision and clearness the rationale of most of the processes in Rose's well-known work. Dr. Normandy has furnished a work of equal value to the student and to the practical analytical chemist.

*School Chemistry; or, Practical Rudiments of the Science.* By Robert Dundas Thomson, M.D.—This book does not bear out its title:—at least if "school chemistry" is intended to mean instruction given to the young and those unacquainted with the rudiments of the science as a part of their ordinary education. What can boys make of  $H_2 Cl H_2 NH$  or  $NH_3 - Cl - Pt Cl_2$ , or of any of the other mysterious arrangements of formula with which this volume is overspread? As a handbook of a convenient size and tolerably complete in its arrangements so far as inorganic chemistry is concerned, the volume will prove really useful to those who are somewhat advanced in the knowledge of natural phenomena. But even for those who have been for some time employed in simple analysis the organic chemistry of the 'Practical Rudiments' will be found to be anything but rudimentary. Very few students of the chemical classes of our metropolitan colleges would



trouble themselves, we suspect, with the mysteries of Hyposulphobenzidic Acid, Amasatine, Erythrolitrim, or those thousand-and-one repetitions of C H O with which our modern organic chemists delight to perplex the world. The various explanatory experiments are well devised; and they are arranged with all the judgment of an experienced teacher. Had not the author forgotten that those who cannot read even the alphabet of the science find it impossible to understand its grammar at once—and are terrified at the difficulties offered by its abstruse philosophy—'School Chemistry' would have been a very useful book. But it is now, so far as the school-boy is concerned, very much like a refined treatise on mathematics for the use of one who has not yet learnt his multiplication-table. The portion of the volume which is devoted to animal chemistry—and particularly where the food of man and animals is treated of—contains a large amount of valuable information derived from the extensive experiments undertaken by Dr. Thomson, and published in detail in his 'Experimental Researches on Food.' The book, as we have said, is a good book:—but the title is a mistake.

**Railways and Agriculture in North Lincolnshire.** *Rough Notes of a Ride over the Track of the Manchester, Sheffield, Lincolnshire, and other Railways.* By Samuel Sidney. The purpose of the writer—a man well skilled in railway law—is to exhibit in a brief and striking form the relations of the railway system and improved methods of farming to each other: to prove "what railways may do for agriculture and agriculture for railways." He writes with clearness and knowledge of his subject—and for the most part his propositions challenge our assent. That the iron road will eventually supersede the Macadam road is a fact which has dawned upon the lowest stratum of intellect in this country. Its advantages too have become generally comprehended. We should have no insane opposition to railways now from great towns and farming districts. If a line had still to be made from London to Dover—the highway to the Continent—we should scarcely find Canterbury and the important towns on the natural route praying it to be sent out of their way, round by Reigate. Mr. Sidney forcibly depicts the consequences to the towns on the road to Exeter of the railway from London being carried round by way of Bristol. If there be still any one—besides Col. Sibthorp—who entertains fear of railways, we would strongly recommend to his perusal this work on railways and agriculture. We should state that the little work is a reprint, in a more compact and portable form, of certain letters which have appeared in the *Agricultural Gazette*, during the present year.

**The Speech of Viscount Palmerston in reply to the Motion of Lord George Bentinck, M.P., for an Address to Her Majesty in Favour of the Spanish Bondholders, tried and compared with the Fundamental Law of this Country as laid down by Blackstone and Locke, and with the Principles and Rules of Grotius and Pattel.**—This pamphlet is conceived in a popular spirit,—and is said to be written, not for the consideration of statesmen, or to meet the criticism of jurists, but for the information of manufacturers, capitalists and other bondholders, who are not supposed to be acquainted with the elements and rules of natural and international law, and the support which may be drawn thence in favour of their claims to a peremptory and compulsory interference of one government with the repudiating or non-paying governments of other countries. Into the bearing of this long outstanding controversy it is not our province to enter. The writer of this pamphlet is well acquainted with his subject, and writes well, though with the strong bias of an hired advocate towards his clients—the bondholders.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]—'DOMESTIC AND ORNAMENTAL POULTRY,' by the Rev. Edmund Saul Dixon, M.A., is just published. In one volume, small octavo. May be had of all Booksellers. Price 5s. 6d.

**LIST OF NEW BOOKS.**  
Adventures of Gordon Highlanders in France and Spain, 2 vols. 21s.  
Almanach de Gotha for 1849, 22mo. 4s. cl.  
Arnold's (Rev. T. K.) *Religio Horatiana*, Part I. 2nd ed. 12mo. 5s.  
Banking Almanac and Directory for 1849, 8vo. 5s. cl.  
Bannister's (J. T.) *Holy Land Survey*, plates, crown 8vo. 11s. cl.  
Bible Cyclopædia, edited by J. Eadie, post 8vo. 19s. 6d. cl.  
Bijou Almanac for 1849, 1s.  
Browning's (H. B.) *System for Valuation of Carpenter's Work*, 3s. 6d.  
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Du Gué's (B.) *French Grammar*, 2nd edition, 8vo. 1s. swd.  
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## THE PLANET NEPTUNE.

Collingwood, Nov. 11.

In the *Athenæum* of Saturday week [No. 1097], mention is made of an intention on my part to discuss the question of the identity of Neptune,—in terms which seem to convey an impression that I am engaged in a special work on the subject. 'This is not the case. In my forthcoming 'Outlines of Astronomy,'—the printing of which is in progress, and in fact nearly completed,—an account of this great discovery will, of course, appear; and it will contain (in pursuance of the plan of the work) a brief explanation of the leading features of the discovery, and of the mode in which it has happened that elements (as it appears) very wide of the truth have yet been able so well to satisfy the numerical conditions of the case. As to the question of identity, it must be regarded as defunct,—having died a natural death, consequent on the calculation of the perturbations which the new planet actually produces on Uranus. Prof. Peirce (of the Harvard University, U.S.) has recently communicated to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences an elaborate computation of these perturbations; which he prefaces by a statement that, "having completed his investigation into the action of Neptune on Uranus, he has ascertained that this planet will completely account for the observed irregularities in the motions of Uranus, provided that mass of Neptune is adopted which is derived from Mr. Bond's Observation of Lassell's Satellite." A curious point is raised by these calculations of the American geometer: since it appears from them (assuming their correctness) that the perturbations actually produced by Neptune exceed in a very high ratio the amount of those assigned either by M. Leverrier or by Mr. Adams,—and in a still higher, the apparent perturbations which served as the groundwork of their calculations; their real extent being completely masked by the errors existing in the elements of the old ellipse. As the computations in question, though somewhat laborious, are by no means difficult, they will probably not long remain unverified. Perhaps the most singular feature in

the whole history is the apparent paradox that the logic of the processes by which those geometries arrived at the true place of the unknown planet is quite unimpaired by this conclusion,—and would have remained so were the co-efficient of the term on which it depends ten times greater, as it might have been, had the distance of Neptune been but very little different, the acting forces remaining almost precisely the same. I am, &c. J. F. W. HERSCHEL.

## THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

In selecting for publication from the mass of communications which have been addressed to us on both sides of this subject, we have thought it best to follow the same course as last week—let them speak for themselves. A dissatisfaction so general in a body so eminent is a fact in itself sufficiently important to be brought prominently forward,—and results distinctly from this correspondence, whatever shades of difference there may be between the correspondents themselves, or between our correspondents and us. We have therefore allowed the writers of these letters, to a considerable extent, to repeat each other in our columns—as it was inevitable they must—for the purpose of fully bringing out at once their points of agreement and their points of difference. The due announcement of the dissatisfaction cannot fail, we think, to have its effect on the deliberations of those with whom the power for its removal rests. The interests of science can never be fairly represented in a body that has any lesser interests which it thinks worth preferring. The public have a deep concern in corporations like this, and are alike weary of the wrangling and of the indifference of philosophers. Good of an incidental kind may arise out of this agitation. The learned societies in England are a sluggish race, reposing too confidently and indolently on a charter and a name; and a body thus stirred to its depths, may be aroused to a course of wholesome and vigorous action. Men who quarrel are at least awake; and if their quarrels can be decently composed, may turn their consciousness to powerful effect. It is time for the Royal Society to be up and doing. That body is a corporation which professes to keep the circle of the sciences,—a charge that can be administered only by the most unquestionable good faith and zeal. The harmonies of science should be the example to its professors. The concords of the one can never be represented by the jealousies of the other,—nor its universality by their selfishness. The rules for the composition and government of such a body are few and simple. No other qualification than learning in the keepers can avail for the keeping of science,—and the care of all the parts is essential to the health and progress of the whole.—The matter of this dispute will be decided before our next publication; and we have allowed the disputants, as we have said, to state their case in their own way, that we might not interfere with the elements of the decision. It may not be unprofitable, however, in reference to one of the questions in issue, to refer to the practice of foreign academies, by way of suggestion. In those academies whose scope embraces the Physical and Natural Sciences, and where two secretaries are appointed, one would seem to be usually taken from the Physical and the other from the Natural History section. In the French Academy, the two secretaries were long filled by Cuvier and Delambre,—and are now discharged by Arago and Flourens. In Berlin, the two great branches of science are respectively represented in the persons of the Secretaries Encke and Ehrenberg. These facts, without being here proposed as authority, are worth mentioning,—as showing the opinions of Continental philosophers on the relative importance of the sciences, and the propriety of their two leading divisions having equally an official representation.

As St. Andrew's Day draws near, the dissatisfaction amongst the Fellows of the Royal Society with reference to the new Council list greatly increases. Nor is this surprising,—for a more partial list it would be difficult to issue. Your correspondent signing himself "A Naturalist, F.R.S.," in your paper of last week, shows how insufficiently the natural sciences are represented; although, as he states,—I believe truly,—there are two hundred and two naturalists, and only seventy-three physical science men amongst the Fellows.



Common sense dictates that, of five officers—the President, Treasurer, two general Secretaries, and one Foreign Secretary—one should be eminent as a physiologist. Take the case of a physiological paper being sent to the Society for reading, redolent of quackery and nonsense. In the absence of a physiological Secretary, who is to advise the reading Secretary on the merits of the communication?—And mark the monstrous absurdity of allowing the author of such a paper to furnish the Society, and the scientific world through the medium of the Society's *Proceedings*, with an abstract of his paper. It has always been understood that the secretaries were paid their hundred guineas annually to edit the *Transactions* and prepare abstracts of papers. The *Comptes Rendus* of the *Académie des Sciences* are, as stated on the title-page, edited by *Les Secrétaires Perpétuels*,—and so should be the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, if they are to be regarded as faithful reviews of the scientific communications made to the Society.

Your correspondents have overlooked the fact that the Committee of Physiology, the most active of all the Committees of the Royal Society, sent up a resolution to the Council as long ago as July last,—in which, taking into consideration the large proportion of papers communicated to the Society on subjects of anatomy, physiology, and other branches of natural history, they strongly urged the Council to appoint one Secretary conversant with those branches of knowledge. This resolution, moved in the Committee of Physiology by Prof. Owen, and strongly supported by Sir Benjamin Brodie and other eminent physiologists, was unheeded by the Council as a body; for although Mr. Robert Brown, moved that Prof. Bell be recommended as Secretary, his motion was lost, and the name of Mr. Grove was substituted:—a gentleman, however, it is proper to add, whose qualifications to act as an officer representing the physical sciences no one can dispute.

Thus defeated, the physiologists were anxious that the name of Sir B. Brodie should be included in the new Council list,—but even this was contested: and we now see five geologists, one of whom (Mr. Horner) was on the Council no later than last year, and only one physiologist. Now, surely the importance of the science of physiology over that of geology cannot for a moment be questioned; and it will be well to bear in mind that it is to the Geological Society that almost all geological communications are made, whereas the Royal Society is the great recipient of physiological papers. It is due to the excellent President who is about retiring, to say that he desired to see a more equitable representation of the different sciences; but in this as in other matters his opinion, based on the experience of many years, has been set aside. I believe that there are several physicists who will not defend the one-sidedness of the new Council list; and some have even admitted the great desirableness of having a Physiological Secretary,—but allege as a reason for nominating Mr. Grove and other Fellows very lately on the Council, the wish to carry certain reforms. This italicized word is full of dark meanings:—and it is manifestly impossible to augur well of reforms which are to be effected by injustice. If the proposed changes be of a nature likely to benefit the Royal Society and advance science, they would be undoubtedly countenanced by men of various sciences as well as by a clique; and it is unnecessary to observe that much more confidence would be felt in changes discussed and approved by impartial persons.—I am, &c. NULLUS IN VERBA.

I have read the letters which appeared in your last number on the subject of the House List for the Council of the Royal Society for the ensuing year, and I regret to see a party spirit evinced in them which may be most injurious to the best interests of the Royal Society. The Council List is partitioned in those letters in a manner which I think the authors themselves, on re-consideration, cannot consider a just one.

The division of sciences recognized by the Royal Society in the distribution of its medals, is as follows:—Astronomy, Physiology, Physics, Geology, Mathematics, Chemistry. Now, admitting the argument that it is advisable, under ordinary circumstances, to have in the Council one or two members to represent each branch, it would be far from

advisable or possible always to construct a Council exactly upon this basis. Many circumstances connected with the government of the Society have to be considered,—and the claims of many persons, resting not so much on the branch of science which they cultivate as on their general aptitude for business, their power of attending the meetings of the Council, and other circumstances. Taking, however, the construction of the present Council upon the narrow ground that it does not fairly represent the different branches of natural knowledge, let us examine it by the division adopted by the Society itself, and sanctioned by long usage. Thus viewing it, we have in

*Astronomy* two, viz.: Lord Rosse, Professor Airy.

*In Experimental Physics* three, viz.: Mr. Grove, Mr. Gassiot, Mr. Wheatstone.

*In Mathematical Physics* two, viz.: Mr. Christie, Colonel Sabine.

*In Physiology* four, viz.: Mr. Bell, Sir J. Clark, Mr. Owen, Dr. Roget.

*In Geology* four, viz.: The Dean of Westminster, Mr. Horner, Mr. Phillips, Sir C. Lyell.

*In Chemistry* two, viz.: Mr. Graham, Dr. Miller. When it is recollected that Mathematics and Experimental Physics are intimately connected with all sciences, and that the Royal Society, as its charter indicates, was especially founded for experimental science, it would appear that this large department of science, so far from being over-represented, is scarcely sufficiently represented in the Council,—and certainly Mathematics, Astronomy, and Chemistry have not their fair share. Some of the members of the proposed Council represent two sciences:—thus, Mr. Airy may be named as a mathematician, Mr. Wheatstone as a physiologist (the recipient indeed of a medal for physiology), and the Geologists come nearer the Natural History or Physiological department than they do to the Chemical, the Mathematical, or the Physical.

In one view of the term Physical Science it may be taken to comprehend all the sciences cultivated by the Royal Society:—and your correspondent, who signs himself "A Naturalist, F.R.S." might have added the three naturalists to the eighteen physical science men as he calls them, and thus he would have made a better case, and have proved that the whole Council was composed of physical science men. It is sad to see that this species of rivalry still prevails. It is one which has ever contributed to lower the character of scientific men; and when they complain that they are neglected by the State and not sufficiently honoured by the public, they should also recollect that it is their intestine jealousies which occasion this, their looking upon each other as enemies, and considering that one branch of science is antagonistic to another, and that war—not peace—is its proper vocation.

From everything which I have heard, those with whom your correspondents find fault were as little anxious to obtain the unenviable posts proposed to them as their opponents are to elect them,—and would not have allowed their names to be put forward but for the feeling that scientific reform has constantly been prejudiced by the desertion of ardent men who, disappointed at the hopeless task they have undertaken, opposed by those for whom they have been labouring, have left scientific societies and sometimes unfortunately the cultivation of science itself, rather than exist in an atmosphere of controversy or take part in that of which their judgment and conscience disapproved. I am, &c., F. Z. S.

I should not have intruded on your columns were it not that it appears to me that, in the question of the Royal Society Council, there is one point of paramount importance to which attention has not been sufficiently directed by your correspondents of last week. The Council for the time being possesses the sole power of making, altering, and abrogating the statutes of the Society. By means of a statute enacted with a view of evading the express terms of the charter, the Council did last year virtually transfer to itself the power of electing or of rejecting candidates for the Fellowship, which by the charter is vested in the Society at large. I do not enter upon the motives or the probable results of this vital change in

the practice of the Society as regards elections; but it is manifest that it invests the Council with a new power, capable of being greatly perverted. It becomes, therefore, more than ever the duty of the members at large (who in electing the annual Council divest themselves of all control) to weigh most scrupulously the character and qualifications of those whom they are called upon to elect,—and above all things to ascertain that no branch or branches of natural knowledge are unduly favoured or depressed. In the present instance, one of your correspondents, signing himself "F.R.S. Junior," has truly shown that the physical sciences and geology are favoured in the Council List by a preponderance of five to one over the natural sciences, including anatomy and physiology,—and this in a Society, the number of whose Fellows devoted to the cultivation of the last-named sciences far exceeds that of the cultivators of all the former put together. Now, let me ask how it is possible in a Council so constituted for candidates who may be desirous of admission into the Royal Society to be assured of equal justice—or even of an approach towards it? There is not one member of the proposed Council who could even attempt to give effect to the recommendation of a botanist, however eminent. There is but one zoologist, Mr. Bell; and, notwithstanding his high qualifications and the respect which they ought to command, even he must feel depressed by the hopelessness of the task of proposing a brother zoologist,—although he would never shrink under any circumstances from giving his zealous support to a deserving candidate. He might, and probably would, receive the support of Mr. Owen, unrivalled as a comparative anatomist, and of Dr. Roget, whose physiological merits are well known:—but what are they amongst so many? Equal would be the chances of success for an anatomist or a physiologist,—unless, indeed, in the very rare case of such a reputation as would necessarily bear down all opposition, or unless he had some private and personal means of securing support in the dominant quarter.

But I may be told (nay, I have been told) that my fears are visionary and hypothetical; that the proposed Council are honourable men who would not listen to anything but the dictates of conscience, and would discharge their duties free from all personal or party bias or from any leaning towards the sciences to which they are themselves attached. Let it be admitted that they would endeavour to do so: but it augurs a strange want of knowledge of the human mind to suppose that such an attempt would be successful. To those who think so, I recommend an attentive perusal of Sterne's *Sermon on Conscience*, in which they will find an admirable exposition of the innumerable deceptions practised by that supposed impartial monitor, and of the results of those deceptions upon the conduct of even the best regulated minds. But my argument in the present instance is not *a priori*:—I have only to appeal to the List before us.—A List supplied by men equally honourable, equally conscientious with those whom they offer for our acceptance for the ensuing year,—and to ask for a verdict of Guilty or Not Guilty of that very bias which (no doubt, most conscientiously) they so warmly disclaim.

On the other hand, I have been told that the remedy proposed by the Committee of Fellows who have issued the revised List is not commensurate with the evil; inasmuch as the simple transposition of the names of Mr. Bell and Mr. Grove makes no actual change in the relative proportions of the members of the new Council. Granted:—but it is nevertheless the simplest and plainest manifestation of dissatisfaction with that List, and the one most likely to meet with the general support of the Fellows; and it is, moreover, such an indication of feeling as must compel the Council, however constituted, to pause in its career of official exclusion, and to weigh well the consequences of persisting in a course so inimical to the interests, the feelings, and the well-being of the Society. Should our very moderation be turned against us, should the warning be unheeded, and should the Council again insult the professors of the natural sciences by the proposal of such a List as the present, it will be for the great body of the Fellows to consider what more decisive steps may be rendered necessary by such persistence in an admitted wrong.

I remain, &c., A WORKING NATURALIST AND F.R.S.

Statements having appeared in the last number of your journal on the approaching election at the Royal Society of the Officers and Council for the ensuing year, unfavourable to the election of Mr. Grove for the Secretaryship, as proposed by the Council List—one which they are obliged by the statutes of the Society to prepare annually—perhaps a few remarks on this subject may be permitted.

The rumour that Mr. Grove was to be proposed for the Secretaryship which would become vacant by the resignation of Dr. Roget is now admitted to have caused a canvas for Mr. Bell long prior to the issue of the Council List,—but a canvas totally unknown to Mr. Grove or his friends. And now it further appears that a Committee has been regularly organized “to promote the election of Prof. Thomas Bell to the Secretaryship of the Royal Society”—that circulars have been issued, with a cross List to the Fellows of the Society—that a *Sec. pro tem.* to the committee has been appointed—and that a canvas has been carried on in good electioneering style. This organization is all on one side. No committee has been formed to “support the election” of Mr. Grove:—indeed Mr. Grove expressly forbids it. So that if it be a merit to have such Committees to support elections at the Royal Society, that merit is entirely on one side.

The Committee justify their proceedings in bringing forward Prof. Bell as Secretary by saying that by the election of Mr. Grove the natural sciences will be left “without an officer capable of abstracting an anatomical, physiological, or natural history paper—or of giving an opinion on its merits.” Now, this is to assert that the natural sciences must always have a representative in one of the two Secretaries. But other branches of science cultivated by Fellows of the Royal Society might with equal justice claim to be so represented; and as there are only two Secretaries it is not easy to see how such a principle can be acted upon. It is obviously erroneous and impracticable. But granting it to be just, the conduct of that section of the anatomists, physiologists, and naturalists who have come forward to oppose the election of Mr. Grove is most unjustifiable; for they have had one of their body as Secretary for the last twenty years,—and surely it is not a little unreasonable that they should thus object to the claims of other branches of science being considered. Such a fallacy can have little weight with the Fellows of the Royal Society; and it is to be hoped, for the sake of good government, that a list which was doubtless well considered by the Council, and in which the anatomists, physiologists, and naturalists are represented by Prof. Owen, Dr. Roget, and Prof. Bell—will not only be carried, but be so by an overwhelming majority.—I am, &c. F.R.S.

The present Council, elected in November last, since the alteration of the Statutes, has *professed* good and substantial reform; but the House List they have now published, and the course adopted in June last in the election of new Fellows into the Society, have given rise to very serious doubts.

It is well known that two parties exist in the present Council: one, the remnant of those who have hitherto had the chief management of affairs, but who now constitute the *minority*;—and the other, those who have proposed to effect reform and who have the power to accomplish it, being the *majority*. It was natural, therefore, to expect some good change from this body;—but what has been effected?

The charter of Charles II. gives power to the Council to “make laws, statutes, and ordinances, and transact all matters relating to the management of the Society and its affairs, and all these acts shall be valid; but their statutes must be reasonable,” &c. Now I would ask whether the assumption to itself by the Council of recommending to the Society in a *batch* on a *House List* either of a given number of candidates for election into the Society, or of a number of Fellows whom the members of Council choose to propose as their successors, is in conformity with the spirit or intention of the charter? Certainly not. It never was contemplated by the original Fellows of the Society or by the Royal Founder that any Council would assume to itself such power as this *professedly* reforming body grasped at the last election of new Fellows. Twenty-one candidates offered

themselves for admission; out of whom the Council selected *fifteen*, and recommended them to the Society for election in a *batch*,—whilst the remaining *six* were never fairly brought before the Society at all. Of course, the “house-list” candidates were elected. And it is almost impossible that the result by this mode of election can ever be otherwise; since, in the first place, each of the *adopted* candidates has a vote of twenty-one in his favour before being offered to the Society for its opinion,—whilst, on the other hand, the List is very rarely *crossed*, as few persons are disposed to question the acts of a Council.

There is no way of counteracting this pernicious system of nomination except by previous concert and arrangement among the Fellows; which is rarely likely to occur on the election of a candidate.

The first act of the present Council was, thus, most significant:—its second has been still more so. One of the Secretaries, Dr. Roget, announced last year his intention to resign office at the next anniversary; and it soon became whispered among the Fellows that the Council intended to propose Mr. Grove as his successor. So early as the beginning of July last the friends of Mr. Grove in the Council took steps to insure his nomination. The printed minutes of Council of the 6th of July show that Robert Brown, a philosopher revered throughout Europe as the prince of botanists, proposed Prof. Bell, a zoologist, for the future Secretaryship; whilst Mr. (now Sir Charles) Lyell, nominated Mr. Grove, —and the nomination of this gentleman was assisted by the majority of the Council present. This took place, as the minute shows, at the very time that the Committee of Zoology and Physiology had sent up an *unanimous* opinion to the Council in the handwriting (as is currently reported) of one of its most distinguished members, Prof. Owen, to the effect that, in consequence of the large proportion of papers sent to the Society on the natural sciences, it seemed to them desirable that some one connected with those sciences should be elected to the office of Secretary on the retirement of Dr. Roget. But this opinion of one of the most active of the Committees was disregarded by the majority of the Council; although the natural-science philosophers in the Society are two to one of the physical, and consequently have a just claim to be represented in the person of *one*, at least, of the officers of the Council.—every one of whom as now proposed for election are physical-science men. Now, much as I respect Mr. Grove as a distinguished man of science, I agree most fully with the writers in the last number of the *Athenæum*, that it is absolutely *absurd* to force this gentleman at present on the Society as one of its Secretaries; seeing that the other Secretary, Mr. Christie, like Mr. Grove, is a purely physical-science man, and for whose retirement it would have been more conciliatory and judicious to wait.

But the course pursued by the Council in regard to their own successors is equally unsatisfactory,—and shows that the distrust occasioned by their nomination of candidates for the Fellowship and for the office of Secretary is well founded.

The list which they have issued for a new Council is of the most extraordinary character. Will it be believed, what is absolutely the fact, that this list contains the names of only *three* gentlemen out of *twenty-one* who have not yet formed part of the Council in the Royal Society,—and that one of these resides at so great a distance that it is extremely unlikely that he will be able to attend; that the second is a very young, although estimable man, who at present is but little known to science,—whilst the third is not distinguished for any scientific reputation whatever? But more than this: the list contains, in addition to the name of Mr. Grove, the names of two other gentlemen who, like him, went out of Council only at the last anniversary, in Nov. 1847, having each served two years,—whilst one of these, now again proposed, has already been *six times* elected into the Council within the space of eleven or twelve years, although he has not served any particular office. These are positive facts!

Is it to be supposed that the Royal Society, amongst all its members, does not include three other gentlemen of equal ability with these and who have not yet served on the Council? Are there no distinguished mathematicians, astronomers, physiologists, or botanists who are fitted to take the place of the

gentlemen thus again recommended? If I am rightly informed, there actually were such gentlemen proposed at the meeting of Council, but passed by (and for what reason?)—and this, too, by a Council that professes to reform abuses!

It becomes necessary that the Fellows of the Society should bestir themselves at the forthcoming election, and by pre-arrangement and concert (the only mode by which an obnoxious “House List” can be set aside, and one that is perfectly legitimate and honest, elect into the Council two gentlemen who have never yet been admitted to that body,—who have not formed part of it at least for some years. I would strongly urge this on the attention of the Fellows at the forthcoming election, as a re-assertion of those rights which have been almost extinguished by this reforming Council.

One of two modes of proceeding ought to be taken:—either to insist on the election of the officers of the Society and of other members of the Council by ballot, *seriatim*,—or to adopt an entirely new list of *twenty-one Fellows*, eleven of whom *necessarily must*, in accordance with the provision of the charter, be part of the *present governing body*, but the remaining *ten* may be entirely new and taken from the body of the Society. If one of these courses be adopted, the first right of the Fellows will be indicated, and a full stop will be put to every chance of future monopoly and favouritism in the governing body. F.R.S.

The unprecedented step of circulating a fictitious balloting List for the Royal Society, printed in the same manner as that of the Council but with some names altered, has induced me to trouble you with a few lines on that point,—and also in reference to the letters which you have published in your last number. I much question the legality of the altered list; but independently of that question, is it defensible to the judgment of the Fellows to imagine that they vote so carelessly that they do not regard which list is placed in their hand? I cannot think so ill of such a body of men; and I cannot see what possible purpose is to be answered by such list, if it be not to entrap Fellows into voting differently from the manner they intended. If they wish to object to the House List, they have ample opportunity by the list circulated from the Society; and is it not something approaching to dictation from an unauthorized body to tell the Fellows how they are to vote? I also hear that the list has not been sent to all the Fellows. If any think the statute wrong which regulates the House List, let them agitate for its repeal: but surely no government of any kind can be carried on if the usurpation of the legal privileges of the deliberative and executive body is sanctioned. If one party do so successfully, others will soon make similar attempts—and absolute confusion and anarchy must result. I trust, however, that the Fellows will reject such an attempt to impose upon their judgment, and defeat that which would be absolute ruin to an ancient and most valuable institution.

With regard to one of the topics urged by the writers of the letters in your last number, I think it will not be amiss to examine its soundness by adverting to objections which would have been raised had the Council followed a contrary course. Had the Council not placed one or two of those who were active in the recent statutory alterations on the new list, it would have been said,—you throw on others the risk of blame which you have yourselves incurred, and leave the new Council in ignorance of all that was said for and against the Statutes during the period of their consideration. I have made inquiries as to the soundness of the objection respecting the abstracts; and on this point I find that the resolution that authors should be requested to furnish abstracts of their own papers was carried long before Dr. Roget's resignation was contemplated,—and arose from complaints made by authors that abstracts were delayed, and not always correctly made. The sole object was to afford to each author an opportunity of publishing, through the Royal Society, as speedily as possible, an account of his discoveries,—as the publication of the Transactions is unavoidably attended with much delay. No man ought to know better how to announce a discovery or improvement than the



author of it; and all that should be required is, that the Secretaries, under the direction of the Council, should have a power of revising abstracts, so as to prevent the insertion of anything derogatory to, or inconsistent with, the objects of the Society.

The physiological objection would apply to any other branch of science. By this argument the officers should not be ministerial agents, but delegates of different learned societies. This will scarcely be seriously argued. Upon the whole, though, speaking as an individual, there are names on the Council which I would willingly change.—I shall vote for the House List, for the purpose of rejecting an insidious and, as respects the Society, a suicidal movement.

The Royal Society has now two lines of action from which to choose: one, the promotion of natural science; the other—its suppression, as unquestionably the selection of Secretary at the present time will greatly influence this result. It is not generally known that there is a small band of physical men who are determined not only to confine the Royal Society to purely physical inquiries and allow the Transactions to be opened only to physical papers, but even to confine the contributions to their own packed band. Now, in considering the appointment of Secretary, this fact should be borne in mind,—so that a representation of all departments of physical science may be secured. For Mr. Grove I have considerable respect. His physical researches are valuable; and perhaps his private acquaintance with foreign philosophers, and his intimate knowledge of the French language, would render him suitable for the post. I cannot, however, conceal that he has been one of the originators of the retrograde reform contrived to prevent the diffusion of knowledge and, if possible, return us to the exploded exclusiveness of the Dark Ages. Moreover, I cannot forget that his conduct is somewhat too imperious to hold so important a situation; where he has to deal with his equals at all times,—with his superiors at most. On these several grounds I shall vote for Prof. Bell,—who follows science for its own sake, and whose affable manners and considerate conduct endear him to all Fellows of the Society.

Whatever the Fellows of the Society may feel at this attempt to swamp the entire circle of the sciences of natural history in the appointment of Secretary,—its daring is equalled by the List of the proposed Council. In that list, several Groveites, or retrograde reformers, are to be found. Some are those whose scientific researches are yet undiscovered,—some are but schoolmasters with another name,—and the greater portion are selected exclusively from a small department which decrees, with the imperiousness of an Oriental Nabob, that Physics are all things, Phytology nothing.

The Royal Society consists of the largest aggregation of great men that have ever been associated together. The Fellows reflect lustre on the Council,—and can therefore smile at the puerile and audacious attempts of a packed body to treat them like schoolboys incompetent to act for themselves.

Three things the Fellows desire,—three things they must have:—the advancement of all departments of natural knowledge; the publication of every new fact in natural knowledge; and the circulation of papers at a rate sufficiently cheap to render them attainable by all classes of the community.

#### A PHYSICAL F.R.S.

I was grieved to observe that some of your correspondents attempted to create a division of feeling amongst the Fellows of the Royal Society on the mere ground of the particular department of science to which certain members of the proposed Council have devoted their attention. Every man of genuine science respects the whole circle of philosophical inquiry alike; and though he may have, himself, a strong personal predilection towards one special branch, he is fully impressed with a conviction that they are all *alike* essential to the formation of a complete philosophy. Faction finds no place in a truly scientific bosom. At the same time, if representation at the Council-table be essential to the due protection of physiology and its kindred sciences, there is full room for all the complaints that have been made of the composition of the present House

List. But how are the mathematical sciences represented in it? Surely no analyst, still less any geometer, will affirm that the abstract sciences are adequately represented in this list! In truth they are grossly misrepresented: were it in no other sense, in that of having men to defend them who are ready to throw them overboard on all occasions where they do not take the guise of physics—men, too, who are not remarkable for eminent attainments or powers in general abstract science. The fact is, that pure mathematics, except under very peculiar and personal circumstances, is a subject *tabooed* at Somerset House; and no man who is acquainted with the composition and feelings of the recent Councils would for a moment dream of sending a paper to the Society.

Yet what of this? It is said that mathematics constitutes no part of "natural knowledge," and hence is not a legitimate object of the protection of the Royal Society. Be this dictum true or false, it is the one evidently which to a great extent guides the Council; and it is not even denied that the executive government of the society "dislikes" this class of papers. Still, I say, what of this? It is not by getting this or that man on the Council to represent mathematical science, that the Council will be induced to alter its feelings with respect to the subject. Nor, since the Council has taken a fit of "dislike" to physiology and natural history, will a member or two more or less greatly influence the respect paid to those pursuits at the Council Board. It is perhaps true that the dislike to physiology has in a great degree arisen from some of the most eminent of its cultivators being amongst the dissentients from the recent decisions of the Council,—as the dislike to mathematics has become hereditary in the Society from the commencement of Sir Joseph Banks's reign. The admission of the latter science "into good society" by the influence of Young, Herschel, and Babbage was the admission of it only as a *parvenu*. It was eyed askance as an unwelcome intruder; and being at length "sent to Coventry," it has forborne its appearance in the pantheon at Somerset House "like a well-bred dog" under certain known circumstances. Physiology may be doomed to the same fate,—but I can scarcely anticipate its possibility. At any rate, it is not by the science being merely represented in the Council that that fate can be averted. It is from mooted a very different question that our salvation must arise. We must look for men of straightforward purpose, liberality of mind, and cultivated intellect to form our Councils:—men whose views rise above the petty warfare of the relative values of the different sciences, and who are capable of estimating a step in any science whatever without measuring it by the standard of their own special objects of pursuit. Cliques in science is not materially different from the cliques of scientific men; and, indeed, they are so intimately conjoined in their nature, that the one inevitably begets the other.—Do not the letters in your last journal prove it?

We want, as I have said before, "open Reports and a responsible Council." Let the battle be fought on this ground. The question in this shape is intelligible,—and is freed from all those personal and special considerations upon which there may arise a difference of opinion and of feeling. Any Council which refuses these in a direct form will stamp itself with the character of wanting honesty of intention, and be liable to be suspected of dishonesty in dealing with the interests of the Society and of science. Could we but obtain these, unfairness could never escape detection nor personal antipathies be brought into play to suppress a personal rival. All else that the interests of the Society required in the way of change would then follow with almost electric rapidity.

Those who really wish well to the Society will therefore lay aside all special subjects of complaint, and unite to carry the great radical changes here indicated. He who prefers a little conundrum of his own to the maintenance of a great principle may justly be himself suspected of a covert design of some kind or other; and he at the same time takes the most effective mode of defeating his own purpose by diminishing the number of those who could support him. The Council may feel tolerably secure of its position so long as it can persuade the

dissentient Fellows to skirmish about the outposts instead of attacking the citadel. It laughs at all this wasted strength,—for it foresees the necessary result.

Is every act of our scientific forefathers, no matter how unjust or absurd, to be binding upon us till Doomsday? We have the same right to modify our by-laws as our ancestors had to make them; and we have the same right to apply for a change in the terms of our charter itself, if need for it should be found to exist, as the little society in Gresham College had to sue for its original grant. However, for the present, let the reformers confine all their efforts to obtaining, as I have said, "open Reports and responsible Councils." Let it be a question positively and emphatically put to the new President, and to the Secretaries and Council elect, on St. Andrew's Day, whether they will at once take measures for bringing about these two changes, in the obvious and honest signification of the terms employed, and convene with all reasonable expedition a special general meeting of the Fellows to approve, reject, or modify their scheme, as that meeting shall see fit? No ambiguity of answer must be allowed. Nothing but a plain "Yes" or "No" should suffice,—or indeed *can suffice*—for the pacification and honour, as well as for the social reputation, of the Society.—I am, &c.

ANOTHER F.R.S., AND A CONTRIBUTOR TO THE PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS.

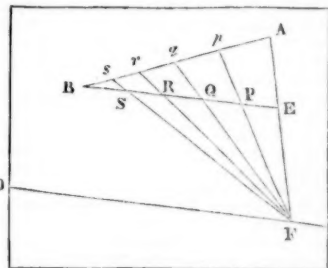
I have been informed, on what I deem good authority, that it is the intention of Mr. Christie to retire at no distant period from the honorable office which he has so long held. If this be true, might not the knot of the present controversy be cut, and all parties reconciled, by the election of Mr. Grove and Mr. Bell?—and I feel assured that Mr. Christie would rejoice at being the instrument of bringing about such a reconciliation.

AMICUS CURIE.

#### A PROBLEM IN PERSPECTIVE.

A sketching young lady the other day complained to me of the want of an easy rule for dividing the vanishing lines in perspective, the work of which should always lie within the area of the picture, and which should be free from the trouble of finding vanishing points, points of sight, base lines, horizon lines, and such like. The following method occurred to me; and as my fair friend assured me that it was just what she wanted, it strikes me that such of your readers as may be given to sketching, or even practised artists, may think it worth remembering.

Let AB CD be the perspective representation



of two parallels,—no matter in what plane. It is required to divide the given portion AB of one of them so that its parts shall be the perspective representation of equal portions of the real line (or in any other assigned ratio). Draw BE parallel to CD and equal to AB,—and divide it into the required number of equal parts, or of parts in the desired proportion, beginning at E. Join AE, and produce it to meet CD in F. From F draw lines to each of the points of division, P, Q, R, S, of the line AE,—and they will cut AB in the required points of subdivision p, q, r, s.—I am, &c.,

\*Αμορφοτα, 4.

GEOMETRICAL.

#### OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

THE daily papers announce the sudden death of Sir John Barrow,—which took place on Thurs-



day. Sir John rose at his customary hour, apparently in the enjoyment of his usual health, and went to the parade in St. James's Park for his ordinary walk. He returned to his residence between 12 and 1 o'clock, and seated himself at the luncheon table,—when he complained of a sensation of approaching death. Miss Barrow, perceiving a change, sent for Dr. Rigby; and on that gentleman's arrival immediately afterwards, he found that Sir John was dead in his chair.—The deceased baronet was born on the 19th of June, 1764, at the village of Dragley-back, near Ulverstone, and was the only child of Roger and Mary Barrow. He was educated at the Town Bank Grammar School; and after acting as superintendent in a mercantile house in Liverpool and making a voyage to the Greenland fishery, he came to London. Through the influence of Sir George Staunton he accompanied the embassy of Lord Macartney to China, in 1792 as comptroller of the household. On Lord Macartney's being appointed Governor of the Cape of Good Hope, in 1795, Barrow was made one of his private secretaries. While travelling with the expedition, he employed his leisure time in becoming acquainted with the natural history of that part of Southern Africa. He returned to England in 1804; when Viscount Melville appointed him secretary to the Admiralty. The deceased baronet discharged the duties of official life for a period of forty years. In January, 1845, he retired from public life. In February, 1835, he was created a baronet by William IV. He had been a Fellow of the Royal Society since 1805,—and was a Fellow of the Linnean Society. He was a contributor to the *Quarterly and Edinburgh Reviews*, and to the *Encyclopædia Britannica*.—and was the author of a 'Life of Lord Macartney,' 'Travels in Southern Africa,' 'Travels in China,' 'Life of Lord Anson,' 'Life of Lord Howe,' 'Chronological History of Arctic Voyages,' and 'Voyages of Discovery and Research within the Arctic Regions.' Sir John leaves four sons and two daughters.

Amongst the intelligence brought by the last overland mail from India, we see announced the death of Sir C. Harris; whom the readers of the *Athenæum* know by his 'Narrative of an Expedition into Southern Africa, during the Years 1836 and 1837,' reviewed by us in Nos. 595 and 598,—and as author of the 'Highlands of Ethiopia,' noticed in Nos. 845, 846 and 847.

We have pleasure in stating that the claims of the late Sir Harris Nicolas have been so far attended to by the Government, that one of his sons has just been appointed to a clerkship in the Audit Office. This is giving a provision to the young man for life.—but the widow of Sir Harris has, we contend, a still further claim on the country. Antiquaries of uncompromising honesty in research and diligence and success in whatever they attempt are rare individuals,—and no one in this way was ever more successful than Sir Harris Nicolas.

One more of the last frail links by which hope hung in the matter of the party who have so long disappeared with Sir John Franklin has given way. The latest of the whalers have come in—and brought no tidings. Floating or camping they have seen no trace of the lost Expedition.

Letters are in town from Sir Thomas Mitchell, announcing his arrival at the seat of his Surveyor-generalship, Australia. We understand from the friends of Sir Thomas, that the particulars of Mr. Kennedy's journey have been a disappointment to the former,—both as regards the ascertained course of the River Victoria and the course pursued by the latter explorer. The object kept constantly in view by the Surveyor-general has been a route to the Gulph of Carpentaria; and one river after another has been followed by him in the expectation that it might lead thither, and abandoned when it was found to take another direction. Mr. Kennedy's instructions in respect of the Victoria were to the same effect; but, instead of carrying the object out, he turned with the stream, when it led him back into the interior deserts. Mr. Leichardt is understood to have set out on his return route to complete the survey which Mr. Kennedy thus left unfinished;—and Mr. Kennedy himself has been sent by the Government of the colony to explore the promontory of Cape York.

A deputation having waited on the Bishop of Lon-

don on Wednesday to point out the dangers arising from the overcrowded state of the grave-yard in Russell-court, his Lordship declared that unless good reason to the contrary can be shown he will immediately issue orders for it to be closed. This is as it should be. If the clergy would take up the question of extramural burials they might effect a great change for the better. With cholera in the heart of London, it is to be hoped that the Bishop will not admit the cupidity of the owners of grave-yards to stand as "good reason" for not carrying his humane intention into effect.

In the absence of all authentic information respecting the British Museum, its Commission, Catalogue, &c., our readers will be glad to have before them particulars of the valuable Returns, moved for by Mr. Ewart on the last day of the Session, respecting the several public libraries therein enumerated and the application of the various sums that have from time to time been voted in their aid. These are as follow:—

Returns of the Number of Volumes, and Parts of Volumes, of printed Books received in each year respectively, from 1814 to 1847, inclusive, under the various Copyright Acts, by each of the following Public Libraries, viz., the British Museum; the Bodleian Library at Oxford; the Public Library at Cambridge; the Library of the Faculty of Advocates, Edinburgh; the Library of the College of the Holy and Undivided Trinity of Queen Elizabeth, near Dublin;—Of the whole Number of Volumes (distinguishing Printed Books and Manuscripts) in each of the said Libraries, as nearly as the same can be computed:—Of the subsisting Regulations under which the said Libraries are accessible to the Public; and of the Number of Students and others who have frequented each of them during the last Ten years, for the purpose of reading or consulting Books:—Of the several Sums of Money which have been paid out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland to the Person or Persons, Body Politic or Corporate, being the Proprietors or Managers of the Library of Sion College in the City of London, of the Libraries of the Four Universities of Scotland, and of the King's Inns' Libraries in Dublin, under the Act 6 & 7 Will. IV. c. 110, which deprived those Libraries of their former Claim to gratuitous Copies of all newly-published Books, and granted them compensation in lieu thereof:—Of the Appropriation of such Sums of Money by each of the said Libraries respectively, in each year since the passing of the Act aforesaid:—Of the whole Number of Volumes (distinguishing printed Books and Manuscripts) at present contained in each of the said Libraries, as nearly as the same can be ascertained:—And of the subsisting Regulations under which the said Libraries are accessible to the Public; and of the Number of Students and others who have frequented each of them since the passing of the said Act, for the purpose of reading or consulting Books.

At a meeting of the friends of the Westminster Ragged School, on Wednesday, the Earl of Radnor, who presided, took occasion to refer to a pleasing circumstance of recent occurrence in connexion with ragged schools. A school had been built in Lambeth, in a spot which afterwards turned out to be very unhealthy. On becoming aware of this, said he, the operatives by whom it was supported gave up their evenings and holidays, and built another free of cost. This is an instance of the warm interest taken by artisans in the education and amelioration of the classes below themselves, well worthy of recording. It has been too much the custom to assume the indifference of the lower orders in such matters.

We called attention some time since to the journey about to be taken by Dr. Bialloblotzky into a totally unknown part of Africa, with a view to determining the geographical conditions of the Upper Basin of the Nile. The Doctor quitted London on the 24th of June last for his birthplace near Hanover,—whence he proceeded to Göttingen, Berlin, and Vienna. In the latter city,—which he reached about the middle of September, and quitted on the 7th of October, just after the commencement of the disturbances there,—he met with a very favourable reception. The Imperial Academy of Sciences granted him the use of some valuable instruments made by the celebrated Kapeller, of Gumpendorf, and selected by M. Schaubl of the Imperial Observatory; and the government obtained for him and his son a passage *gratis* by the railway from Vienna to Trieste, and by the steamers of the Austrian Lloyd's from Trieste to Athens, Syria, and Alexandria. The Minister of Commerce, M. Von Hornbostel, furnished him with an official recommendation to the Austrian Consul-General in Egypt. During Dr. Bialloblotzky's brief stay at Athens, he received from the British Minister, Sir Edmund Lyons, great kindness and attention. He arrived at Alexandria on the 3rd of November; and it was his intention to leave Suez for Aden on the 23rd, by

the Honourable East India Company's steam-*packet*,—by which a free passage has been granted to him by the Court of Directors.

On Wednesday last a grace passed the Senate at Cambridge for carrying into effect the terms of a new prize founded under the following circumstances.—

A number of members of the Civil Service of India who were students at the East India College at Haileybury during the thirty years that the Rev. C. W. Le Bas was connected with that institution, desirous of testifying their regard for Mr. Le Bas and of perpetuating the memory of his services, have raised a fund, amounting to about 1,920l. Three per cent. Consols, which they offered to the University for founding an annual prize to be called the Le Bas Prize, for the best English essay on a subject of general literature:—such subject to be occasionally chosen with reference to the history, institutions, and probable destinies and prospects of the Anglo-Indian empire. It was proposed:—1. That the Le Bas Prize should consist of the annual interest of the above-mentioned fund, the essay being published at the expense of the successful candidate. 2. That the candidates for the prize shall be, at the time when the subject is given out, Bachelors of Arts under the standing of M.A., or Students in Civil Law or Medicine of not less than four or more than seven years' standing, not being graduates in either faculty, but having kept the exercises necessary for the degree of Bachelor of Law or Medicine. 3. That the subject for the essay shall be selected and the prize adjudicated by the Vice-Chancellor and two other members of the Senate, to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor and approved by the Senate at the first congregation after the 10th day of October in each year. 4. That the subject shall be given out in the week preceding the division of the Michaelmas term in each year, and the essays sent in before the end of the next ensuing Easter Term. 5. That for the present year the two examiners to be selected by the Senate shall be appointed, and the subject for the essay given out before the end of the present term.

In the midst of incitements to purchase Balmoral Shawls, Eureka Shirts, Perforated Zinc Blinds, Junk Polkas, and Pulmonic Wafers,—and to try Warm Baths

fitted for noblemen and kings,  
And dames of high-born wealth,—  
the following modest but momentous promise may possibly have been overlooked by newspaper readers, even those the most addicted to the difficult exercise of self-examination.—

Γνώθι σεαυτόν.—One who has travelled in many lands, and for many years devoted the best energies of his mind to the study of his fellow-man, has at length attained proficiency in an art which enables him to discover the natural disposition of individuals by the character of their "handwriting." Those who would KNOW THEMSELVES may acquire this valuable information by enclosing thirteen postage stamps, with eight or ten lines of their ordinary writing (not, however, prepared for the occasion), in a free letter, addressed to ———, N.B. An answer will be given without delay.

Self-knowledge for a shilling and a penny! What are the feats of your Lillies and your Cagliostro's, your Mlle. Lenormands and your Robert-Houdins, to this?—What is Mr. Wheatstone, or Dr. Morton, or Lord Rosse, or Captain McQuhe as a discoverer, compared with the above Energetic Traveller in many lands? Who will ever again quote the Poet's wisdom, hitherto considered as of average applicability.—

At thirty man suspects himself a fool;  
Knows it at forty?—  
For thirteen pence any "infant in the eye of the law" whose handwriting is formed (as Mr. Carstairs would say) may have the whole secret. To literary men how invaluable a counsellor is the Professor with the Greek motto! Ten lines forwarded by the author of 'Albert Lunnell' (not prepared for the occasion) would have acquainted that Great Unknown that he was not born to be a novelist;—eight from a wit whom there is no need to name, would entitle him to learn "without delay" whether he is really funny or not—whether he deserves a seat in the parlour of *Punch* or merely a soup-ticket at *Punch's* are-a-gate. But every one consulting the Energetic Traveller is hereby seriously counselled to burn his thirteen penny-worth of omniscience "as soon as taken." Falling into a neighbour's hands, the consequences might be disastrous.

We see by the local papers that the reform party at Bedford have determined to apply to the Legislature for a new act for the administration of their important educational foundations,—as we advised them to do some months ago. The question of public charities long abused in all parts of the kingdom and wrested from the spirit of their original intent in consequence of the lapse of time, the change of local pursuits, and the revolutions of manners, will probably occupy the attention of Parliament in the ensuing session. These ancient institutions require

a thorough revision and re-organization. The intention of the pious founders—except in a few rare instances—is not difficult to divine. It was to provide for the education and mitigate the distresses of the inhabitants of the locality in which the endowments were made. If the deeds are generally found to be very precise in terms, it is because no good could then have resulted from leaving the legal instrument more plastic—and a state of things in which it would become a dead letter was not of course to be at the time conceived. It is absurd to suppose that these important institutions should remain in their present state for ever. If properly employed, they possess means sufficient to do a great part of the education which is so much needed in the country. There is some probability, as we have said, that Government will be prepared to adopt measures in the approaching session with a view to the rectification of abuses. The first thing needed is a sifting inquiry; for many of these petty corporations are so close that no information as to the amount of revenue and its expenditure can be obtained. Some friend of economy in the House should make it an early duty to demand a Committee of Inquiry. In the meanwhile, we would strongly urge reformers who are not in the legislature to follow the example of their brethren of Bedford—and get new charters.

Like all other matters which strike their roots into the soil of peace, the formation of a Society of the Natural Sciences in Vienna has been suspended by the troubles of the time. At a meeting recently held at the Imperial Mint, the President, Bergrath Haidinger, communicated the following answer from Government to his application on the subject:—"According to an announcement made by the Minister of the Interior on the 22nd of July of the present year, His Majesty the Emperor and King, by a decree of the 18th of July, has been graciously pleased to sanction the formation of the Society proposed by you, under the appellation of *The Society of the Friends of the Natural Sciences of Vienna* (*Gesellschaft der Freunde der Naturwissenschaften in Wien*)."—The general meeting which should be held for the formal constitution of this Society has been postponed till calmer days.

**Diorama, Regent's Park.**—This Establishment will be RE-OPENED on MONDAY NEXT, the 27th inst. with the much admired Picture of MOUNT ETNA, in SICILY. It will be seen under three aspects—Evening, Sunrise, and during an Eruption. Open from Ten till Four.—Admittance, 1s.

**ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.**—A LECTURE on the PHILOSOPHY of an EMPTY BOTTLE, by Dr. Kono, daily at Half-past Three, and on Evenings of Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; on alternate Evenings on VOLTAIC ELECTRICITY, with the ELECTRIC LIGHT, by Dr. Bachmüller. A LECTURE on PNEUMATICS daily at Two o'clock. The MICROSCOPE at One o'clock daily. THE DISSOLVING VIEWS, with historical descriptions. THE CHROMATROPE. THE FILANTASMAGORIA, by CHILDE, at Eight o'clock. DIVER and DIVING-BELL WORKING MODELS explained.—Admission, 1s.; Schools, Half-price.

## SOCIETIES

**GEOGRAPHICAL.**—Nov. 13.—W. J. Hamilton, Esq. in the chair.—Col. J. A. Lloyd and Mr. Ravenshaw were elected Members.—A memoir, 'On the western or Edoor Tribes inhabiting the Somali Coast of north-east Africa, with the Southern Branches of the family of Darood, resident on the banks of the Webbi Shebeyi, commonly called the River Webbi,' by Lieut. C. J. Cruttenden, Indian Navy, Assistant Political Agent at Aden. From Rns Hafoon to Zeyla the country is known by the name of the Bur-e-Somal; and it is divided into two great nations, the principal of which, composed of the Mijjir-theyn and other tribes, occupy the land to the eastward of Burnt Island, while the other extends from Burnt Island or Bunder Jedid to Zeyla, and comprises three great tribes: the Haber-Gerhajis, the Haber-Awal, and the Haber-el-Jahleh. Both these nations trace their origin from Hadramaut; and are distinct from the Galla tribes of the Esa Somal and Gidr-Beersi, who limit the Haber-Awal to the westward, and with whom they are generally at feud. The city of Hurrur is closely connected with the Somali country by its commerce, more especially by its slave trade. It is in about lat. 9° 22' north and long. 42° 35' east. A tradition exists amongst the people of Hurrur that the prosperity of this city depends upon the exclusion of all strangers not of the Moslem faith, and Christians are especially interdicted. It is described as larger than Mokha,

and situated in a fertile country but fast decaying. The coffee districts are amongst a low range of mountains near Hurrur and to the southward. The quantity exported is very large, and the quality fully equal to that sold at Mokha. Besides coffee, Hurrur exports white cotton cloths, used as dresses by the wealthier classes. They are called "Tobe Hurruri;" and have a deep border of various colours,—of which some are very good, especially the scarlet. The cotton of which they are made is grown at Hurrur; and the price of a really good dress is from five to eight dollars. Cardamoms, gum mastic, myrrh, manna, saffron, and safflower comprise the extent of the Hurrur trade as regards produce; but the most valuable branch of commerce is the export of slaves from Gurague and Habesha. The duties levied at Hurrur are ten per cent. on import and export, and a further tax of two and a half dollars is laid on slaves. Zeyla, the seaport of Hurrur, is a miserable, mud-walled town, containing some twelve to fifteen stone houses, 180 huts, and 750 souls. A vessel of 250 tons cannot approach within a mile of the town; and the anchorage is shallow and difficult of entrance after sunset on account of reefs. This town levies a tax of one dollar on each slave exported from Tajoura or imported from Hurrur and afterwards sold at Berbera. "With reference to the slave trade, the position of Zeyla is important. It is the only seaport of Hurrur, and it commands Tajoura and Berbera, the only available places of export; and when the time comes for the final suppression of the slave-trade on the north-eastern coast of Africa, the numerous advantages held out by Zeyla will be duly appreciated. Hurrur depends for its foreign supplies solely on Berbera and Zeyla; and were these two ports cut off from the merchants, so far as regards the sale of slaves, it must prove a death-blow to the slave commerce through that province from Abyssinia to Gurague." The low lands between Zeyla and Berbera are very fertile; the number of sheep, goats, camels, &c., found on these plains is incredible. Many of the elders of the Haber-Awal tribe own each more than 1,500 she-camels, and the flocks of sheep are literally uncounted. Berbera, the principal port in the Haber-Awal country, is well known from its annual fair, the number of inhabitants sometimes exceeds 20,000; but the town is quite deserted from April to the early part of October. The great drawback to Berbera as a port is the scarcity of good water. In the country of the Haber Gerhajis the principal articles of trade and commerce are, ghee, myrrh, luban or frankincense of the first quality, ivory, ostrich feathers, and gum Arabic. The kafilas or caravans from the Shebeyi river and from the province of Gunana pass through this country on their way to Berbera. The last branch of the Western tribes of the Haber-el-Jahleh possess the town of Kurrum; which is of great importance, from its having a tolerable harbour, and from its being the nearest port to Aden. The Galla tribes are described as a nation to be trusted. They appear to understand the cultivation of the soil, and produce immense quantities of Jowari, which is retailed on the east coast of Africa at the ports of Mukdesha, Patta, Lammo, &c., and thence exported to Hadramaut. It is now well known that Webbi in the Somali language means a river; and this circumstance contributes much to clear up the confusion which this word has produced in the geography of that part of the world. The mass of rivers which was formerly supposed to exist in that portion of Africa is now reduced to two, viz., the Webbi Shebeyi, or Haines River, and the Webbi Gunana, or the Jubb.

**ASIATIC.**—Nov. 4.—First Meeting of the Session, Prof. H. H. Wilson in the chair.—Prof. Wilson commenced the reading of a paper 'On the Rock Inscriptions of Asoka, which are found in various localities, from the Bay of Bengal to Kapur di Ghari, beyond the Indus.' These rock inscriptions, which date more than twenty centuries ago, are very nearly identical in their tenor, though with some observable differences of dialect and some few changes dependent on their local position. A translation was made by the late J. Prinsep, and published in the Bengal Journal several years ago; but a good deal of uncertainty pervaded the translation: arising in part from his being imperfectly acquainted with the language, which even yet is not sufficiently investigated, and,

in part, from the incomplete state of the inscriptions themselves, as well as the incorrect copies he had to translate from. The latter defect is now very much diminished, if not wholly removed; and by the united labours of Mr. Westergaard, Dr. J. Wilson, and Capt. Jacob, it may be said we have now a complete copy of one of these inscriptions, at least—that at Ginar. The former defect has been lessened by the discovery that the inscription of Kapur di Ghari, though in a totally different character, was mainly the same with that of Ginar, and that it contained parts which had been defaced or broken away in the latter. This discovery was made by Mr. Norris, who had succeeded in transcribing the whole inscription from several imperfect impressions on calico, made in 1838, by Mr. Masson. The transcript of this inscription is imperfect; but enough has been done to show what it is. The character is that which is known by the name of the Bactrian Pali. It reads from right to left—unlike all the other inscriptions of ancient India; and is obviously allied, both in the form of the letters, the omission of medial vowels, and the direction of the character, to the Hebrew alphabet. This discovery, and the correction of the copy of the Ginar inscription, had induced the Director of the Society to examine carefully the inscriptions, and to attempt a new translation. He said that the language was neither Sanscrit nor any exactly known dialect of the Pracrit, and that the translation would consequently be in parts conjectural; but the main object of the edict was sufficiently clear.—We defer any account of the tenor of the inscription until the reading shall be concluded.

**INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.**—Nov. 20.—Earl De Grey, President, in the chair.—This was the opening meeting. Mr. H. Currey was elected an Associate. The President, in presenting the Royal Medal which had been awarded to Mr. Cockerell by the Institute, in February last,—but which, in consequence of the time required to prepare the dies, made expressly for this purpose, had not been presented at the closing meeting of the last session—complimented that gentleman on his being the first individual selected by his professional brethren to receive the honour which the Sovereign had placed at the disposal of the Institute.—Prof. Donaldson then gave a description of the Cathedral Church of St. Isaac, Petersburg.

**SOCIETY OF ARTS.**—Nov. 22.—J. Walker, Esq., C.E. in the chair.—Earl Granville was elected a Member.—A letter from the Royal Society of Edinburgh was read. It was accompanied by a medal bearing the effigy of Napier of Merchiston, and was offered as a mark of respect for the Society of Arts. The Secretary read an address from the Council, which concluded as follows:—"It is proper, however, that the Council should direct special attention to a new feature in the Exhibitions of the present session. It has been complained, that for a couple of years the Society has directed attention too exclusively to the Fine Arts, to the neglect of the Mechanical Arts and Manufactures. This may perhaps be in part true. But in reforming the operations of the Society it was necessary to do one thing at a time. The Council have postponed the mechanics—not lost sight of them; and have availed themselves of the past vacation to prepare the large room on the ground-floor for the reception at Christmas of an Exhibition of the models of large inventions of recent date and of a mechanical nature. This they hope will afford the public the gratification of having laid systematically before them all that "is most important in the records of modern invention."—Mr. T. M. Gladstone read a paper on his plan for constructing a Malleable Iron Lever Bridge. The advantages which the author considers it to possess over other plans, are that of enabling bridges of any span to be built without a centering,—whereby a saving is effected; also enabling a flatter roadway to be obtained while a higher waterway is insured than can be got by any plan in which the arch springing from the pier is made use of. The paper concluded with a detailed account of the comparative cost of constructing bridges on the various plans hitherto used, and also of the weights of metal employed.

**SYRO-EGYPTIAN.**—Nov. 14.—The first meeting for the season. Prof. Lee in the chair.—A communi-



education from Mr. B. Barker 'On the History and Antiquities of Cilicia' was read, with a note by Mr. H. Ainsworth on the identity of the city of Tartessus with the Tarshish of the Scriptures. Mr. Ainsworth pointed out that the burial-place of the Prophet Daniel has been shown to be at Susa, and that the tradition attributing the sepulchre at Tartessus to that prophet is erroneous.

Mr. Sharpe remarked on the fact as connected with the paper, that Demetrius, mentioned by Diogenes Laertius as of the school of Tartessus, was the most ancient traveller known to have visited Britain. Hecateus had previously described Stonehenge—but it does not appear that he had visited the island. Demetrius probably came in one of the "ships of Tarshish," before the time of Julius Cæsar.—Mr. Nash having observed that the hawk-headed figures found in Cilicia, and called by Mr. Barker figures of Osiris, might probably be of the same character with those of the Persepolitan monuments, Mr. Wright remarked on the discovery of pieces of pottery lately found at Colchester with Egyptian cartouches scratched upon them, probably by some Egyptian soldiers of the Roman legion stationed there.—Prof. Lee said that figures of Egyptian workmanship have been found in the Morea and in Cephalonia.—A conversation ensued upon the presence of Chinese bottles in the tombs at Thebes, in which Mr. Roberts, R.A., Mr. Sharpe, and Mr. Bonomi took part. Mr. Bonomi stated, in corroboration of the opinion that these bottles are of modern origin fraudulently placed in the tombs by the Arabs, that similar bottles may be purchased in the Bazaar at Cairo at a low price as perfume bottles, though they fetch a high price as antiquities. The Chinese characters on these pretended antiquities Mr. Wright stated to be of modern date.

#### MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- MON. Geographical, half-past 8.  
— Royal Academy, 8.—Lecture on Anatomy.  
TUES. Zoological, 9.—Mr. Gray 'On Affinities of Genus Pecten.'  
— Mr. Sowerby 'On New Species of Cancellaria and Ostrum.'  
— Mr. Churton 'On Collection of Insects from New Zealand.'  
WED. Botanical, 8.—Anniversary.  
— Geological, half-past 8.  
THURS. Antiquaries, 8.  
— Royal, 4.—Anniversary.  
FRI. Archaeological Institute, 4.  
SAT. Asiatic, 2.

#### FINE ARTS

##### NUMISMATIC SALES.

THE first sale of the numismatic season, 1848-9, commenced on the 16th instant;—and, as usual, at Messrs. Sotheby & Wilkinson's. It consisted chiefly of a portion of the valuable collection of Greek coins, in gold, silver, and particularly in copper, sent here from Smyrna by Mr. H. P. Borrell—an eminent numismatist and resident in the Levant for more than a quarter of a century. Many of the lots realized good prices; they being nowise inferior in beauty and rarity to most of the recently sold Pembroke coins and medals:—of which collection, by the way, the long promised and more ample Catalogue in 4to. would seem to be postponed *sine die*.

Of Mr. Borrell's coins the most interesting lots in copper were chiefly bought for a great Parisian collector. We regretted much that at least a score or two of the finest and rarest should not have been retained for the collections of our own country. Amongst these we may quote (lot 6) a very scarce coin of Hierda-Tarraconensis (now Lerida) bearing a portrait of Augustus, and a wolf on the other side of the medal, as published by the laborious Mionnet (first vol.) and by Akerman from a fine specimen in the British Museum. Lot 15 contained three remarkably fine coins of Pæstum: viz., a Sextans, a Triens, and a Semi-Uncia. Lot 43 was a fine coin of Amisus; having for type Perseus holding the head of Medusa with the winged and headless corpse extended at his feet. This interesting type, not frequent on coins of Amasra, occurs more seldom still on those of Amisus,—and does in fact appear to some numismatists to be quite a new type for this town. Two unpublished Asiatic coins of Trapezus and one of Zela-Pontus—all three of extreme rarity—produced only 3*l.* 3*s.*—not being fine. Nevertheless, they were well worth 12*l.* The eighty-six very beautiful and varied copper coins of the famed Ionian town of Erythra, recently dug up there amongst the ruins, included at least the names of thirty-four different magistrates

or men of note. Mr. Curt and Dr. J. Bird purchased some of the finest; but the larger portion were bought for the Continent by an *employé* of the British Museum. Four copper medals of Alabanda in Caria sold for 1*l.* 13*s.* One of them struck by order of Caracalla, having on the reverse three branches of laurel, was very fine and is of extreme rarity: as is likewise the medal of Gallienus coined at Bargasæ. The probably "unique" medallion of Claudius Gothicus, struck at the town of Prostanna (lot 78)—highly interesting, as it represents the Mount Vianus, unnoticed by all the ancient geographers,—brought but 2*l.* 17*s.* It was not fine.—A very rare and fine bronze medal struck in Cyprus to the honour of Caracalla—and, curious to relate, dug up two years ago in London about Billingsgate (lot 82)—sold for only 16*s.* This rarity is in the possession of Mr. Curt. It represents the temple of the Paphian Venus on the reverse. We particularly noticed a well-preserved coin of Commagene, in Asia;—having two cornucopias, with the infant heads of Epiphanes and Callinicus, sons of Antiochus IV. (70 n.c.) It is very rarely met with here or on the Continent. A fairly preserved Egyptian coin, with the portrait of Cleopatra, sold very cheap considering its scarcity. (See Wilkinson and Bunsen's excellent works on Egypt, &c.) Lot 119 contained an exquisitely worked little silver coin of Marseilles, struck there by the Greeks. Some early medals of Beotia, having the famed Beotian buckler, a vase, &c., sold for only about 14*s.* each,—though fine! The seven silver tetradrachms of Amyntas, King of Galatia, published by the Duke de Luynes (1846), and once worth 50*l.* apiece, sold for only about 3*l.* 10*s.* each. Mr. Curt bought four of them. He bought also lots 174 and 175, two rare gold medalets of the same monarch (valued at 40*l.*) for 15*l.* They are exquisite as to work and condition. A very fine silver medallion of Augustus—reverse, six ears of wheat—was knocked down for only 2*l.* 3*s.* It certainly was worth double that amount.—Of the modern medals and coins disposed of towards the end of the second day's sale, we particularly wondered at the enormous price (2*l.* 9*s.*) obtained for a pattern of the coin of our beloved Queen (lot 251) to be called "a florin, or  $\frac{1}{16}$  of the pound. We understand that, like the crown of last year, it will be "called in"; but in any case we cannot think that the purchaser has value. He has nothing creditable—numismatically speaking—to show for his money.

The next "important" Sale coming—to last ten days, from Nov. 27 to Dec. 7.—will be that of the extensive collection of coins and medals (1408 lots) of the late W. A. A. White, Esq. They have been catalogued by Mr. Curt,—and are expected to produce high prices.

##### THE DECORATION OF THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT.

THE criticism on the Frescoes in the New Houses of Parliament [*Ath.* No. 1050, page 1277, and *ante*, page 1104,] has attracted the attention it deserved. No one can deny that "the presidency of one mind is essential,"—no one conceive the themes here selected will secure that unity of design, harmony of feeling, and completeness in result which in architectonic decoration are so requisite. In the remarks which I now submit I pass by all observations on style or mode of treatment, to deal only with those themes. What was in this respect the design of the Commission? Was it not the expression of one specific idea—the history of the English Commonwealth, the rise and progress of our intellectual and social condition? In what mode shall we obtain this end?—Through the subjective treatment of TRUTH by the IMAGINATION. Poetry and painting are but the varied modifications of the same power. They recall the past by imparting to it individuality and action. They illustrate the present by reproducing its scenes in moral relation to their contemporaries. An epic theme painted is not a poem only because colour is employed instead of words,—only from the critical laws that restrict the artist and control his manual resources. The rules for the selection of themes for pure architectonic decoration have much in common with those relating to the epic poem. There must be the same unity of design, harmony of relation, and progressive action. The beginning, the middle, and the end—as causes, as effects, as continuous results—should be distinctly expressed. Events should be strictly historical; none

selected *solely* for the pantomime, or which have no sequence in the chain of causation. Episodes are admitted because of their individuality; towards which there is a perpetual craving in the mind, because they vary the effect on the spectator by their dramatic incidents and freer poetic treatment. The ideal is blended with the real, as the lyric with the epic; even as beauty united with feeling imparts a diviner character to human action. As in the drama the passion of the scene should be perceptibly conducted, the subordinate retained in due relation to the principal, action and re-action forming the chain of moral sequence,—so also throughout the Palace of Westminster should the decoration be made expressive of the main design. It should tell its story simply, energetically, severely, truly. The parts should not be disjointed,—but each should appear in its own particular nature as a member of a body of which the building forms the whole. Event should foreshadow event,—episode be continuous and illustrative,—everything be rejected which interrupts progress of action, or which is calculated to destroy harmony of effect by opposing mediums such as symbolic and historic, traditional and poetic themes in the same room, requiring or causing strong technical contrasts in the artist.

Now, if these rules be correct, I suspect the design of the Commissioners will not be realized. For instance, in the House of Lords. The themes here are 'Religion,' 'Chivalry,'—'The Baptism of Ethelbert,' 'The Installation of the Order of the Garter.' Here are two themes, by three artists, not fulfilling the rule of unity in design, harmony in execution,—being partly symbolic, partly historic, disjointed and opposed. Let us suppose the theme had been one, and intrusted to one:—the 'Introduction of Christianity into England.' We should have had:—'The Anglo-Saxon Children in the Marketplace at Rome,' 'The Preaching of St. Augustine,' 'The Baptism of Ethelbert,' 'The Foundation of St. Paul's.'—historic facts in relation to each other. Should not also Allegory be as much as possible avoided? Should not the subject be *English*? Yet we have suggested to us:—'The idea of Justice upon Earth, and its development in Law and Judgment' illustrated by 'The Judgment of Solomon,' 'The Judgment of Daniel,' and 'Daniel in the Lions' Den.' I submit that in all these judgments there is some want of it. Law and Judgment would be equally expressed by familiar scenes from the interior of the Temple or the Old Bailey. Then twenty-eight spaces to be filled exclusively with the twenty-eight heads of the Tudors!—why? because there are twenty-eight spaces. Have we no Plantagenets, no Stuarts, no Guelphs?—Was Plantagenet less than Tudor? But the series is historic:—so was the series exposed at intervals by these Tudors on the spaces at Temple Bar,—so would be the heads of twenty-eight Lord Mayors. Should not your themes be *true*? Is not 'Raleigh and the Clock' apocryphal—a vulgar incident in a courtier's life. Why select 'Raleigh landing at Virginia'? Does it not imply that he was the *Discoverer*? Was this the case?—Is it doubtful?—Was it not the fact that Virginia was discovered by Amados and Barlow in 1584, whilst Raleigh remained at home to pursue his court intrigues? Elizabeth was in this case as much the discoverer,—for both forwarded the means.

'Elizabeth at Tilbury,' 'Richard Cœur de Lion coming in sight of the Holy City,' and 'Eleanor sucking the Poison from Edward I.' are themes selected as they "relate to the military history and glory of the country." With regard to the second, it has too general a character to be specially illustrative of these. The third is simply episodic, and the interest is exclusively personal,—the theme here too is not "military glory," but the devotion of woman. 'Elizabeth' requires explanation. I object to Tilbury from its connexion with Sheridan. How does it illustrate its "military glory"? The appearance of Elizabeth there has in this respect something of Tilbury-ludicrous. Remember it was *after* and not *before* the danger. On July the 20th, 1587, the Armada advanced up the Channel—on the 31st it was in full retreat towards Spain—on the 9th of August the Queen went to Tilbury. Detained by Leicester, who would not have her expose her person "being the most sacred and dainty thing we have in this world to danger,"—she reached the camp too late for action, too late to recite the speech prepared

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for the invasion!—but mounted on a white horse, with a marshal's truncheon in her hand, she rode along the hastily recruited ranks; exhibiting not so much her soldiers' glory as her own love of "court pageants." This theme has been well illustrated by Miss Ducrow. Again, we have 'Elizabeth on the Sea-side after the Defeat of the Armada' "keeping company" with 'Canute reproving his Courtiers.' Is this symbolic of her recognition of the supremacy of God? If so, it is trivial.—Of her public gratitude to the Almighty? Then it is inaccurate, since that was evinced by a formal procession to St. Paul's and the instant immolation of Catholic victims.

Here I must close. I select these not unfairly. I am aware of the difficulties which obstruct the views of the Royal Commission. It has done much good, and has a noble aim: but the Houses of Parliament are the History of the British People—the decorations should reflect their genius, their courage, and their spirit.

DELTA.

**FINE-ART GOSSIP.**—Mr. Charles Heath, the eminent line engraver, known by the Books of Beauty which bear his name and the costly Annuals which he conducted, died on the 18th inst. in his 64th year. He was the son of James Heath, eminent in the same art, and well known to the print-collector by his 'Death of Major Pearson,' after Copley—his 'Riots in Broad Street,' after Wheatley—his full-length of General Washington, after Stewart—and his book-plates after Stothard and Smirke, for Harrison's Novelists' Library. The father laid the foundation for that fine taste in the embellishment of books which his son carried to greater perfection. Mr. Charles Heath excelled in small plates; as in those which he executed after Newton—and in the beautiful engraving of Lady Peel, after Sir Thomas Lawrence. He was not so successful when his plates were of a large size: as in the 'Europa' after Hilton—where that dexterous laying of lines for which he was so distinguished is somewhat insipid, and fails to compensate for the bolder cuttings for which Strange and Sharp and Burnett and Raimbach are so pre-eminently distinguished. Mr. Doo and Mr. Watt were pupils of Mr. Charles Heath; and in those larger and rarer excellencies which contribute so much to the beauty of a line engraving of a size larger than a book-plate have certainly excelled their master. Mr. Heath, besides being eminent for the power of his own hand, may be said to have exercised a marked influence over his own department of Art. In his hands that species of serial artistic publication known as the "Annual"—which, originating with others, he was nevertheless one of the earliest to copy—has survived to the present day. Such publications had their use in familiarizing the general mind with the productions of Art and in making the latter accessible to moderate means. To balance their appeal to somewhat trivial tastes, it must not be forgotten, either, that they called into action the talents of the most celebrated engravers at a time when the engraver was too little in request—and led the way to the long host of illustrated books which have finally supplanted them all except the publications of Mr. Heath. This action upon Art—in the praise of which, as we have said, Mr. Heath must share—led, itself, to that healthy re-action which has followed a surfeit of such sweetmeats. The engraver is now more profitably employed, for his reputation as well as—it is to be hoped—for his pocket. Mr. Heath has quitted the scene at a time when the class taste which he did so much to promote is all but extinct. In all that relates to the getting-up of these periodicals he displayed ability—and in his relations with his brother artists liberality and good faith. Of late years, we believe his own hand wrought little:—his time having been too much devoted to the necessary arrangements for the many publications on which he was engaged. His extensive undertakings led him to employ many pupils:—and as his works still increased in number he formed at last another manufactory of artists on almost as extensive a scale as the Messrs. Finden. Mr. Heath has left a large family to lament his loss. One son is favourably known as an engineer; and another is already eminent in the same line of Art in which his father and grandfather acquired their well-earned reputations.

We are glad to hear that the artists are asserting

the dignity of their profession and of their art. A petition to the Board of Trade is said to be circulating amongst them for signatures, urging the interference of that authority to forbid the selection of their own prizes by the prizeholders in the *Art-Union*. That this measure will be finally enforced we cannot, with our conviction of the mischief arising from the want of it, doubt: and it is far more desirable that it should be so, at the suggestion of artists themselves, than as a consequence of any further painful disclosures marking the moral of the present practice.

A circular just issued by order of the Governors of the British Institution appoints Monday the 15th and Tuesday the 16th of January next as the days for the reception of the modern pictures and other works of Art intended for the ensuing Exhibition.—As connected with this Institution, we may mention the death of one of its officials, Mr. Barnard. In the appointment of his successor, it is to be hoped that the directors will have an eye to the impartiality and discreet bearing which especially befit such an office. These qualities are necessary to conciliate the profession and to secure the contributions of talent. We hope never again to see here individual interests preferred to the interests of the class for whose benefit the Institution was founded. Two or three years under proper management may bring back credit to these walls.—The particular moment is not the most agreeable one for speaking truth on the subject; but this *must* be done where it may serve as a hint important to the future interests of the Institution and of the profession.

The *Builder* announces that the Architectural Publication Society is making satisfactory progress. There are now 305 subscribers; and local secretaries have been appointed in various places,—including two in Arabia and one in Jamaica.

One promising fruit of the late Revolution in the French capital has been, as our readers know, a new arrangement of the pictures in the Louvre. Instead of having, as heretofore, to wade through a host of inanities, covering a space said to be at least a quarter of a mile in length, before coming to the room filled with the choicest specimens of the various schools of Italy—the cream of the collection,—this magnificent assemblage is now in the room first arrived at. The visitor is thus saved much of the *ennui* and personal fatigue formerly endured from encountering in the onset the pedantries of the French classical taste of the *Empire*, the licentiousness of Greuze and others, or the picturesqueness of *genre* and *costume*. True it is, there were many fine things to be seen by the way:—but there was much to disturb and unsettle the mind for the quiet contemplation of a collection of *capri d'opera*.

The *feuilleton* of the *Constitutionnel* contains the following list of pictures which have perished before the destructive hand of the Paris mob. It is well known that the Palace of Neuilly was partially burnt down. The Palais Royal also suffered in the same way. These buildings both contained many of the finest pictures of the French school. The remnants only remain, heaped up in a confused mass in the Salle Henri Quatre of the Palace of the Louvre. The 'Neapolitan Improvisatore,' of Leopold Robert, has disappeared. This picture was originally intended by Robert to represent 'Corinne au Cap Misène.' After painful efforts to give the requisite *pose* and expression to the heroine, he scraped the figure out of the canvas and painted in the figure of the improvisatore. So much for the history of this picture, which is now lost. It is supposed to have been torn to pieces, as a portion of it was seen in a picture shop near the Louvre.—The 'Mamelouk' of Géricault has disappeared, as well as the 'Soldat Laboureur' of Horace Vernet, and the 'Maée d'Equinoxe' of Roqueplan.—Two exquisite heads by Masaccio, Charles V. and Isabella of Portugal, and Eleanor of Austria, by Holbein—have been lost from the Palais Royal.—Henry IV. and Catherine de Medicis, by Porbus, are gone.—Amongst the pictures by living artists which have perished, are the 'Oath of the three Swiss,' by Steuben; 'Gustave Wasa,' by Hersant; 'The Brigand's Wife,' by Schnetz; 'Love—and Psyche,' by Picot; besides others of less note. Horace Vernet has suffered most. 'The Attack of the Gate of Constantine' has been cut from the stretcher and taken away. Many other canvases were cut through, but not taken away. The battle-pieces

of Hanau, Montmirail, Jemappes, and Valmy, 'The Confession of the Dying Brigand,' the 'Revue de Hussards,' have been cut to pieces with swords. 'Camille Desmoulins arborant la Cocarde Verte,' and the portrait of the Peasant Girl of Ariccia, have shared the same fate.—The Neapolitan Mother crying over the Ruins of her Cottage, thrown down by an Earthquake, one of the masterpieces of Leopold Robert, has been pierced in a hundred places by bayonets.—The White Horse of Géricault has also disappeared,—as well as Prudhon's portrait of Talleyrand.

# MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

**SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY, EXETER HALL.**  
ON FRIDAY WEEK, December 8th, will be repeated Handel's Oratorio 'MESSIAH.'—Principal Vocal Performers, Miss Birch, Miss Dolby, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. H. Phillips. The Band and Chorus on a greatly increased scale, will consist of above Seven Hundred Performers.—Conductor, Mr. COSTA.—Tickets, 3s.; Reserved Seats in the Area or Gallery, 6s. each, may be had of the principal Music-sellers, at the Office of the Society, No. 6, Exeter Hall, or of Mr. Bowley, 23, Charing Cross.

THOMAS BREWER, Hon. Sec.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Placido Zeffiretto.—*Sol tu sei—No, non vedrete mai.* Composto, &c., da Carlo Salaman.

HERE is a distinct and pleasant illustration of the influence which southern air can exercise over northern invention. In former songs by Mr. C. Salaman, while a feeling for expression and a desire to use scientific resources might be discerned, form and order were wanting. The necessity of conforming to the Italian taste for rhythm and vocal melody has apparently put an end to our author's vagueness and trained his fancies int. that symmetry which of itself alone will not please, but without which there can be no pleasure. We should imagine that the utter want of success which has attended all the modern contemners of established modes and metres must by this time have convinced those who desire public favour, that Music without melody, method, and a mathematical regularity of structure will fail. Any audacious youth who will "go out" upon the new-fashioned discords may produce any given quantity of it, and declare it to exhibit a higher inspiration than the Haydns, Mozarts, Beethovens, Mendelssohns, ever reached—the end being that the louder his trumpet is blown on the house-top, the more eagerly do passers-by hasten to get out of the way! Prosaic as the announcement may sound, we believe that if any dynasty can hold in these days, it is that of Genius with Labour and Common Sense as its coadjutors.—To return, we are pleased with these three *Canzoni*: the second, in particular, is winning, novel, and exhibits delicacies of harmony and modulation in the accompaniment which might hardly have been found there had Mr. Salaman only studied in Italy.

In a former article [*Ath.* No. 986] Herr Dürner's songs were admired as some of the most select German vocal music that has been recently issued. A new collection of *Five Songs for Baritone or Mezzosoprano, with Accompaniment for Violoncello* (to translate their German title) is before us. Generally speaking, this manner of writing chamber-music is open to question. The description may sound Irish, but the song thus treated becomes a *solo* executed by two people,—since *obligato* does not mean support so much as echo or dialogue. In fact, as a body, the German *lied*-writers err in considering the voice as only one among other instruments,—in place of confiding to it the melody and the meaning, which are apart from and above all decorations and accessories. A false notion of setting every word by itself, a scanty measure of the power to produce an agreeable *cantabile*, and a consummate knowledge of instrumental effects, lead them into many unlovely mistakes. The most successful specimens of songs with accompaniments which we recollect are those by Lachner; and these *lieder* by Herr Dürner may take an honourable place near them,—the first and third being our favourites. They will be found easy and agreeable to sing; but they will tax the amateur violoncello player to the utmost, simple though his share may seem,—since without the utmost command of his instrument (which implies instant and delicate sympathy with the singer's inspirations) an *obligato* becomes at once *disobliging*—an excrescence and not an added beauty.

*Trois Chansonettes d'Amour, Minnelieder for the Pianoforte.* By the Earl of Belfast.—The melody of the second of these, 'Le Revoir,' has a touch of Auber's peculiar grace:—but, like too many of Auber's melodies, it wants a second part. The flow of the third *cantabile* is expressive and not unpleasant. The Earl seems to be a pianist accomplished in the devices and designs of the newest school; but—though the indications here given be very slight—it would not surprise us if he turn out a tune-maker should he work out his vein of musical invention.

*A Voluntary and a Hymn.* By Miss E. M. Hannam.—are such as to provoke truths which are distasteful "when a lady is in the case." Why publish what is worthless? There is not an idea of the organ in Miss Hannam's Voluntary. Her Hymn is a setting of words to the same melody (?) in which, owing to misconception of accent and rhythm, some of the most solemn text that could be treated acquires a sickly and frivolous sentimentality which is nothing short of reprehensible. Long suffering with amateur efforts may be carried too far in Art as in literature;—and the fewer like these that we meet, the better.

But what have we here?—A medallion of Her Majesty, supported by a kangaroo and a cassowary, with a dejected lamb slung underneath and a gigantic crown above—*alias* the *National Australian Anthem!* The words are by John Rae, Esq., Town Clerk, Sydney; the music is by S. H. Marsh, Esq.—We must really make room for the last two stanzas of civic inspiration.—

Hail to thee, happy Queen! Sweetest that earth has seen,  
Dear to thy country, As chief to his clan;  
Australia speaks loud of thee, Britain is proud of thee,  
Wise as Elizabeth, Gentle as Anne.

Hail to thee, happy Queen! Be as thou still hast been,  
Gilding with glory Thy reign upon earth;  
Live in Australia's love, Live like the peaceful dove,  
There as in England The land of thy birth.

Poor Mr. Marsh had small chance, it will be readily conceived, of "capping" these brave rhymes by braver music. His share in the hymn is accordingly less eminent than Mr. Rae's. The melody is familiar enough:—arranged, as it would seem, in certain verses for the express comfort of the wheezy, if we are to judge from the number of rests which it contains, whereby the sense is broken in order that the singer may "fill his bellows afresh." Picture and all respectfully appraised—we opine that this kangaroo and cassowary (or emu?) Hymn, will not put out of court—whether English or colonial—our genial, generous and glorious national air of 'God save the Queen.'

Without question, the standard of cheap and periodical musical publications is rising, both as regards aim and execution. Hamilton's *Edition of the Select Songs of Scotland, with Symphonies and Accompaniments for the Pianoforte*, is a work which no magic could have produced twenty years ago. The projectors have been hampered by copyright in some of the words. This is peculiarly awkward in the case of national melodies, where the old original text is wanted. When the Ettrick Shepherd corrected the bad grammar in the burden of one of his own songs,—

When the kye comes hame,

a tailor, who was one of "the harmonic meeting," pronounced the change "affectit." Those who have been used to nod their heads in approval of 'Kelvin Grove' will by no means like 'Campsie Glen' so well. But this substitution was inevitable. So far as we have examined, the symphonies and accompaniments seem to be not liable to the tailor's disapproval,—being simple and, possibly, even too natural. But the introductory matter is pleasantly collected; and the work, when bound, will form a stately and attractive volume. Be it understood, however, that in no respect does this collection supersede or put out of court, that excellent publication, Wood's *Songs of Scotland*. This has been brought to the close of its second volume with so much spirit and merited success as to warrant the publishers in enlarging the work by the publication of a third volume:—which has accordingly commenced.

Turning back to Mr. Hamilton's publications for a moment, we must advert to the first number of a very cheap edition of *The Select Psalmody of Scotland* issued by him. Here, again, as in 'The Companion

to the Wesleyan Hymn Book' noticed recently, traces of progress are to be discerned. But for this very reason we are bound not to spare such an unworthy composition as 'Cranbrook,' pp. 28, 29,—the notation of which is wrong to the point of producing a tune with three bars in the first part and seven in the second. Now this is inadmissible—and moreover unnecessary, as any arranger having the slightest knowledge of rhythm must have known. When Dr. Mainzer shall have succeeded in making the "members of the Kirk Session" sight-singers, we trust that they will promote this and all other such unmusical tunes to their prohibited index.

Together with the numbers in continuation of Mr. Novello's editions of *St. Paul* and *Jephtha*, we must notice Mr. Foster's wondrously cheap edition of Handel's *Judas*—ample in size, and clear,—though perhaps a trifle too close,—in type.

We have, lastly, another of Mozart's *Twelve New Symphonies*,—entirely bearing out our remarks on the former ones. One more number will complete the series.

EXETER HALL.—WEDNESDAY CONCERTS.—This series of fifteen meetings began on the 22nd—and is to be continued once a week till the 28th of February. The programme of the first was put forward as a specimen, and prefaced by a full explanation of the objects and principles of management. We are therefore in a condition to discuss these matters. There is to be no choral music. Every evening's performance is to include a selection from a first-class English, German, French, or Italian opera; "but in all cases where practicable the words will be rendered in English." This is to be followed by a Pianoforte *Concerto* or *Fantasia*:—another will be performed in the second part:—"occasionally," too, "an instrumental solo by a gentleman from the orchestra" will be given. The second part will "be devoted almost exclusively to English, Irish, Scotch, and Welsh airs, songs, duets, trios, and quartets;" and every evening Mr. Sims Reeves "will sing, among others, one or more of those great national songs of Dibdin, Braham, Davy, Shield, and others, made celebrated in former years by the genius of Inceledon and Braham."—Mr. Willy's orchestra has been wisely engaged;—Mr. Rockstro is accompanist and composer (?)—Now, this plan is identical with that of the *Vocal Concerts*—filling the madrigals—which, under Mr. Turl's presidency made so attractive a feature: a plan too aimless and defective to advance Art in any respect;—and which we think, therefore not calculated permanently to attract the public.

The operatic selections with translated text, denuded of action, costume, scenery and chorus, will be found but spiritless. Wednesday's *canto* was from 'Oberon' (the least operatic of modern operas); yet a series of four songs running, two of them dramatic *scenas*, without connexion or personation, was felt to be heavy. Still heavier would be such a *finale* as that to 'Figaro' or 'Il Matrimonio,'—where six or seven singers standing in a row are to interpret all the changes of place, scene, and grouping which the eye demands to bear out the pleasure of the ear. Admitted as a make-weight, dramatic concerted music, we have a thousand times pointed out, is unsatisfactory in a concert orchestra; but when it is elevated into a principal attraction the disappointment becomes doubled.—We are still less satisfied with the "ballad" part of the entertainment, for other reasons—taking Wednesday's programme as a specimen. Many of the "great national songs" with which "Inceledon and Braham" delighted the town in former years were rough and puerile as verse—as musical compositions totally worthless. They belonged to a period of rampant patriotism and namby-pamby sentiment; when newspapers in their leading articles denounced "The Corsican Fiend" and "Boney," and when 'Fancy's Sketch' and 'The Bewildered Maid' moved "good society" to tears and *encores*. We love the ballads of Arne to Shenstone's and Shakspeare's words; the better songs of Sir H. R. Bishop take a higher rank; and the melodies of Horn needed not the witchery of a Vestris or a Malibran to convince us of their sweetness: but the most refined or regularly composed of these must not be administered in too unmerciful a quantity;—while we entertain nothing short of a disinclination to sitting evening after evening to listen to productions of such a calibre as 'The Lads of the

Village,' 'The Bay of Biscay,' 'Wapping Old Stairs' &c. &c. In their place they may be good;—but their place is not the concert-room. To continue,—having expressed the highest opinion and hopes of Mr. Sims Reeves, we cannot see him lending his name to an *clap-trap* scheme without warning him that he is thereby perilling his position as regards the public and as regards his art. He is a worse ballad singer—because he is a better vocalist—than Mr. C. Braham; and he will hardly improve without acquiring the vulgarities and vices of an obsolete school. We have gone over this ground again and again when speaking of the concerts at Mechanics' Institute, &c. The failure of these might have suggested itself to the Directors of the Wednesday Concerts as instructive; and yet they state in good faith that "the want of such concerts" had not occurred to those "who make it their profession to provide for the amusement of the public." What were the old Lent Oratorios but such meetings as these, with a chorus, and perhaps a stray Catalani or Camporese beguiled to sing opera-music in Italian? Yet they are gone by. The attempt at the revival "on principle" of such medleys is a mistake, and one to which we cannot wish success.

The instrumental performer on Wednesday was M. Thalberg;—whose *Fantasias* gave great delight to the audience. He improves in power and precision as a player from year to year.—The principal singers were the Misses Williams, Mrs. Newton (we believe, Miss Poole), Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Leffler.—The Hall was well filled.

COVENT GARDEN.—Comment would be wasted on the impolicy of giving an English\* version (including an awkward mixture of spoken dialogue and sung recitative) of the 'Donna del Lago' at Covent Garden: so close upon a performance in which Grisi, Albini, Mario, Tamburini, and Marini have been combined. Mr. Bunn chooses to "snow brown,"—and we have but to record the fact. The most interesting feature of the opera as now sung is the *Malcolm* of Miss Bassano, who seems courting the occupation of a *contralto*. This lady has great clearness and musical feeling; but they have been hitherto traversed almost to the point of being neutralized by unsettlement of judgment. Gifted as she is with a voice which, however agreeable and expressive, has never been a certain one,—the commonest discretion would have pointed out steady practice within its natural register as the exercise demanded to fix its intonation. In place of this, Miss Bassano has tried to extend it upwards and downwards, and to give it a factitious volume. Not any one of these changes can be attempted without great risk even to voices originally sound and strong. The music of *Malcolm's* part demands an organ as resonant in the lower and middle notes as Pizaroni's. Miss Bassano delivers it expressively; but over-emphasizes and over-elongs her recitatives—and takes the *cabaletti* of her airs at a slackened tempo, which impairs their brilliancy. The Thirteen-penny Professor of Self-Knowledge (whose advertisement appears in another part of this *Athenæum*) must, we think, if consulted, have warned Mrs. Donald King against "the sin, by which fell angels." To be popular as *Adalgisa* is one thing, to succeed as *Ellen* is another—the difference being precisely that betwixt a *prima* and a *seconda donna*. Mr. Travers, Mr. Harrison, and Mr. Borani complete the cast. The orchestra, which sounds less numerous than it did awhile since, is curious in its independence of the singers. In plain English, Mr. Bunn seems resolved to give his speculation the smallest possible chance of success.

PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—Having a lively faith in the virtue of contrasts, there seemed some chance that *Rosetta*, *Lucinda*, *Madge*, and *Miss Deborah Woodcock* might come with new (or old) charms before eyes and ears satiated, as we not long ago remarked, with the translated heroines of the Italian stage. It was, therefore, in a humour to be pleased that we betook ourselves a few evenings since to 'Love in a Village.' Better had that opera so-called been left a "Yarrow unvisited." No stretch of

\* Much tuneless English has been united to the melodies of Italian opera: but it may be questioned whether the same amount of unmusical violence has ever been done to any air, as to *Malcolm's* *sortita* "Elena." The case deserves special reproof.

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toleration, no weariness of libretto platitudes can reconcile us to a story in which fantastic improbability and matter-of-fact grossness are so closely mixed; while the sentiments set as ballads—though strung on the favourite melodies of the time collected by Dr. Arne, in the true disregardful English fashion, which so long retarded the growth of a sound musical taste—were not to be sat through without many a weary sigh and many a groan.

Sooth to say, however, the public did not seem to be of our opinion;—and the opera had all the advantages of a strong cast. Mr. C. Braham's *Hawthorn* was virtually sung twice through,—every song getting its *encore*. When the reward is so easily won and so signal, Criticism must prepare to abide *Cassandra's* fate. Aware of this, we cannot but emphatically protest against the propensity shown by our young tenor towards perpetuating the vicious traditions of Mr. Braham the elder. We had his tricks of *tempo*—his shout on some rich high note,—his flourish, hurried to give the appearance of animation, but in reality to conceal careless execution—in complete *fac-simile*. Far preferable would have been some transmission of the Braham's temperate and finely-felt musical style, when he sang not to "split the ears of the groundlings," but to charm the *cognoscenti*. With those of the present generation who deliberately choose what is inferior in Art no terms are to be kept,—and Mr. C. Braham is too richly gifted to be allowed to keep back public taste, and injure his own excellent powers, without earnest reproof. Miss Harland was *Rosetta*. Her voice is a clear *soprano*, efficiently produced; her music was sensibly phrased—her passages honestly finished:—in short, as a singer, she exhibits fair promise. As an actress she is unembarrassed—too much so for a character the colour of which is embarrassment. There was no masquerade about her *Rosetta*—but the demeanour of a real *Abigail* "in difficulties." Mr. Allen, as *Young Meadows*, sang and acted satisfactorily. Miss E. Stanley's *Madge* by its hard unvarnished truth was rendered profoundly disagreeable; and her exit "by waggon to London to advertise in a register office for a place" (think of this text brother musicians, by way of inspiration!) must have been felt as a relief by every one. It is well from time to time to witness the performance of such works as the above and their warm reception, otherwise the conviction of progress might render us supine or insolent. Mr. Maddox has now a company strong enough to cast far better operas in a satisfactory manner,—and we trust that some of his novelties will serve as texts for more agreeable meditation regarding English musical taste than 'Love in a Village.' But his orchestra is miserable.

HAYMARKET.—'The Knight of Arva' is the title of a two-act comedy, by Mr. Bourcicault, produced on Wednesday evening,—with but moderate success. The material of which it is composed is well worn out: an Irishman unconsciously acting the diplomatist,—with this novelty, that here the affair turns up to his own private advantage in a royal marriage. *The Knight of Arva*, Mr. Hudson, is a native of Ulster, wandering in Catalonia, with no other dependence than his sword,—which, however, proves a fortune to him. In attempting to rescue a traveller beset by bandits, he becomes possessed of a packet addressed to Don Diego Volpone, Mr. Tilbury, prime minister to *The Duchess Marina*, Miss Reynolds, which causes him to be accepted at Court as proxy *incognito* for the Prince of Wales, then seeking a bridal alliance with the Catalan princess. France and Spain have also their ministers on the spot; who, finding the Irishman to rise in favour with the Duchess, seek his advocacy in favour of their respective interests, and shower upon him honours and orders. The Duchess, at first restrained by etiquette from acting for herself, but subsequently insisting upon freedom of choice and asserting her right to govern as well as to reign, becomes violently enamoured of the adventurer,—and finally bestows on him her hand. Miss Reynolds showed in the conduct of the character—a rather difficult one—in its elements—powers of a more subtle and refined nature than belong in general to her acting. She acquitted herself well. Mr. Hudson, we thought, wanted case:—besides, his brogue was too broad for a chivalric gentleman of the fifteenth century. Mr. Bourcicault on

this occasion has not been very brilliant in his dialogue nor very abundant in his jests. The treatment was occasionally clever; but the spirit of the piece was far from being uniformly sustained. It was placed on the stage with care and splendour; and on the whole, is more to be commended as a spectacle than as a drama.

SADLER'S WELLS.—Reverals at this theatre follow one another "fast and furious." No single play is suffered to exhaust popular attention. On Saturday, Shakspeare's comedy of 'Much Ado about Nothing' was produced, with pictorial accessories finely illustrative of the poet's meaning. The cast was not strong; the leading characters of *Benedick* and *Beatrice* being confided to Mr. Marston and Miss Cooper:—yet the whole performance prospered well. The part of *Claudio* was intrusted to the new actor, Mr. Dickinson. It made less demand upon his physical strength than *Jaffier*, and was accordingly better played. The speeches repudiating *Hero* (Miss Huddart), at the altar were well delivered. *Dogberry* and *the Constable* were performed by Messrs. Younge and Scharf, with their customary humour. At the fall of the curtain, the principal performers were called before it.

OLYMPIC.—A new farce, in one act, translated from *Le Moulin à Paroles*, and entitled 'Cousin Cherry,' was produced on Monday,—with distinguished success. It depended altogether on Mrs. Stirling; who, as *Cousin Cherry*, the Widow of Mill Hill, rattled away with such excessive volubility as to rival Mr. Mathews himself in 'Patter v. Clatter.' The plot is of the slightest kind; being contrived only for the introduction of the heroine, with her eternal talk. The immediate occasion for the display of her loquacity is the circumstance of *Charles, Earl of Mandeville* (Mr. Leigh Murray) having *incognito* taken up temporary lodgings at the farm of *Jacob Primrose* (Mr. Bender)—who has a daughter, *Elinor Primrose* (Miss Julia St. George), with whom of course the disguised Earl has been smitten. The lady's anxiety to discover the name and rank of her cousin's lodger is highly amusing. In the course of it she becomes convinced that he is in love with herself:—and she is comically surprised when undeceived. While under the false impression, however, she wishes to secure the regard of the hero by restraining her loquacious propensity,—and for a while resolves to observe a strict silence in his presence. Her awkward attempts at curbing her desire to speak are very ludicrous; but ultimately they fail,—and the torrent of words flows fuller and stronger for the previous restraint. Another scene was irresistibly provocative of mirth. The lady calls a family council; which having assembled, she constitutes herself its president,—and, after delivering her charge, proposes to hear the opinions of all present. No sooner, however, does any one attempt to utter a word than she anticipates the subject and course of argument; and after thus speaking for all, she sums up the debate in her own favour. The whole assumption by Mrs. Stirling was admirably sustained. The demands which it made upon her *physique* were very great,—but her resources seemed equal. The applause was universal.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC GOSSIP.—Labitzky's 'Elfin Waltzer' has been again figuring in public,—not *auspice* Cellarius or Madame Michau, but under the awful eye of Justice. *The Athenæum* some time since recorded how Messrs. Cocks & Co. obtained an injunction to prevent a rival publisher from issuing another English edition of this popular dance music. But Messrs. Purday & Co. have "fitted up" a song out of the principal melody, it seems; and an application has been made in the Rolls Court to prohibit the sale of this also. In reply, it was urged that the original tune, whether set as waltz or song, was no man's property,—being merely a Swiss air adapted and waltz-ified by Labitzky. The injunction was decided to bind the song as well as the dance, *pro tempore* merely; for it was intimated that the cause might be taken into another court. Now, in proportion as we are anxious to see property in musical copyright clearly defined and strictly respected, it becomes doubly necessary that some law should be laid down regarding its limits. Who is to have the monopoly of national airs and such like "waifs and strays," as Moore styled them in one of his prefaces? Consistently to carry

out the law of protection is impossible here. In the attempt, the entire question of regularly-composed melody might become entangled to a confusion beyond the wisdom of any *Gamaliel* whatever to solve or settle. Why, if the principle be strictly followed up, might not a leading phrase or idea be protected? Some five-and-twenty years ago, Caraffa's 'Aure felice' was a favourite Italian *cavatina*. Now, the passage which gave to that tune its character and suggested its form is note for note identical with the opening of the melody with variations in Beethoven's Quartett No. V. in a major (the musical phrase being simply a descending major scale). Countless other examples crowd upon us, no less curious:—from 'Life let us cherish' in the overture to 'Semiramide,' to a subject from one of Beethoven's Pianoforte Sonatas in the Prelude to Mendelssohn's 'Lobgesang.' So difficult, in truth, is the question, that it must, we apprehend, be left at a certain point for good faith and good understanding—not Barristers and Juries—to adjust. That point, however, cannot be too soon or too firmly fixed.

Signor Verdi is said to be finishing two scores—we suppose on his forty-trumpet system—one for St. Petersburg and the other for Naples. It was for the former capital that Sarti introduced cannons *obbligati* into a "Te Deum." If any remains of the taste which these explosions were meant to gratify still survive in Russia, the composer of 'Attila' (beyond all other *maestri*) is secure of brilliant success and of a Field-Marshalship.

Matters are going very badly with the Italians at Paris. The Director, we perceive, is applying for the restoration of the *subvention* formerly granted to his theatre, on the plea that his *troupe* is largely made up of French artists. Even in days when Nationality is brought forward not a double, but a quadruple "debt to pay," on every conceivable pretext and with every imaginable condiment, this appeal is marvellously odd: the old theory of the *subvention* as justifiable, being the expediency of keeping open an exhibition of the most consummate vocal art by way of improving public taste. A few new operas would be more to the purpose than any government grant; and since the French are putting forward their Italian theatre on the plea of its Gallicism, why should they not give a French composer or two a commission to write for them till Italy produces something new? Let us name MM. Auber and Niedermeyer. Why should not the management induce M. Halévy to revise the 'Clari' which he wrote for Madame Malibran, and in which annals assure us there is some good music?

It is with pleasure that we record the refusal of the National Assembly to economize in the case of the *Conservatoire* and other similar establishments which the French Government has been accustomed to support.

We find the following stated as being the arrangements for the dramatic representations at Windsor Castle.—Dec. 28, 'The Merchant of Venice': *Shylock*, Mr. Charles Kean. *Duke*, Mr. Diddear. *Bassanio*, Mr. Wigan. *Antonio*, Mr. Rogers. *Gratiano*, Mr. Webster. *Lorenzo*, Mr. Leigh Murray. *Salario*, Mr. Conway. *Salanio*, Mr. Boyce. *Lancelot Gobbo*, Mr. Keeley. *Old Gobbo*, Mr. Meadows. *Portia*, Mrs. Charles Kean. *Nerissa*, Mrs. Keeley. *Jessica*, Miss Emmeline Montague.—1849, Jan. 4, 'Used up,' and 'Box and Cox.'—Jan. 11, 'Hamlet.' *Hamlet*, Mr. Charles Kean. *King*, Mr. Diddear. *Ghost*, Mr. Vandenhoff. *Polonius*, Mr. W. Farren. *Horatio*, Mr. Howe. *Laertes*, Mr. Leigh Murray. *Queen*, Mrs. Warner. *Ophelia*, Mrs. Charles Kean. *Actress*, Mrs. Buckingham.—Jan. 18, 'The Stranger' and 'Twice killed.' *The Stranger*, Mr. Charles Kean. *Solomon*, Mr. Compton. *Peter*, Mr. Keeley. *Mrs. Haller*, Mrs. Charles Kean. *Charlotte*, Mrs. Keeley.—Jan. 25, 'The Housekeeper' and 'Sweethearts and Wives.' The casts above enumerated appear to us judicious. The remainder, it is stated, "are not yet completed, but Mr. Charles Mathews will play his original character of *Sir Charles Coldstream* in 'Used up,' Mr. Buckstone and Mr. Harley will appear in 'Box and Cox,' and Mr. Wright as *Billy Lackaday*, in 'Sweethearts and Wives.'

Mrs. Warner and Mr. Anderson have united their forces—and are starting together in the provinces.—Mr. Lovell has, we understand, a new play nearly



ready for Mr. and Mrs. C. Kean; and Mr. Planché is actively engaged on a new burlesque for the Lyceum. — We may add, that the management of this theatre appears this week to have changed its tactics; for its usual vaudevilles having substituted Shakespeare's comedy of 'The Merry Wives of Windsor,' with Madame Vestris for Mrs. Ford. Is it, at length, found that a higher order of entertainment is required?

The Liverpool papers state that a new and splendid theatre is about to be built by subscription in that town;—and that most of the celebrated actors of the day are to be invited to take shares.

#### MISCELLANEA

**Building Houses for Burning.**—On examining into the causes of the rapidity of the spread of the flames in London houses when on fire, it will almost invariably be found that, whatever may have occasioned the fire to break out, the rapidity of its progress has been in proportion to the greater or less extent of the lath-and-plaster partitions, the hollow wooden floors, and the wooden staircases. Were the occupiers of houses sufficiently aware of the danger from lath-and-plaster partitions, especially when they enclose staircases, they would never occupy such houses; or, if they did, they would not give such rents for them as they would for houses with brick nogging partitions. Again and again we protest against the absurdity of constructing buildings as if for the express purpose of readily burning; and urge, on the other hand, the importance of adopting every precaution to render them fire-proof, and the sin against society which the neglect of precautions involves.—*Builder.*

**Ecclesiastical History Society.**—An advertisement has appeared in the *Times*, announcing that the Ecclesiastical History Society has in preparation an *Athenæ Cantabrigiense*; and as an inducement, it may be supposed, to increased support, the public is further informed, that the said work can be obtained only by subscribers. I would suggest that a much more respectable argument in favour of the Society would be offered in the announcement of an immediate fulfilment of its engagement for the year 1848. Those who have the conduct of its affairs do not forget to remind us of the approach of a third year's subscription (due Jan. 1st); but is it right, I ask, that to this time of its standing, the Society in question should have only issued one year's books? The subscribers have received up to the present, and at long intervals, the first volume of 'Field of the Church,' the first and second volumes of Strype's 'Memorials of Cranmer,' and the first volume of Wood's 'Athenæ Oxonienses.' For the year 1848 were announced the 'Book of Common Prayer (according to the texts of the Sealed Books) with notes, by A. J. Stephens, Barrister-at-Law,—the second volume of 'Field of the Church,'—a new edition of Heylin's 'History of the Reformation,'—and a second volume of Wood's 'Athenæ Oxonienses.' Not one of these volumes has yet appeared. It may be stated (and I hope we may reckon thereupon) that they will be distributed before, or at, the conclusion of the present year; but is it good management, or at all encouraging to subscribers, that so tardy a spirit should be manifested in the fulfilment of engagements which are by no means of an extraordinary character? From the position which your journal occupies in literary circles, I have thought it most suitable to address you upon this subject; and as I consider a principle worthy of notice to be involved therein, I shall feel obliged if, either by insertion of this letter or by remarks of your own in the course of your columns, you will call the attention of the managers of this Society, and that of the public, to the matter to which I have referred.—I am, &c.

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**Franklin's Electrifying Machine.**—A scientific acquisition has just been made by M. Andraud, the engineer so well known by his works and experiments on compressed air. At the shop of a dealer in second-hand articles, he discovered and purchased the electrifying machine—still, after a lapse of nearly eighty years, in an excellent state of preservation—of Benjamin Franklin, which is supposed to have been made at Philadelphia.—*Galignani.*

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—P. R. W.—W. M. T.—S. G.—O.—J. J. L.—J. W. S.—C. W.—J. C.—P. M.—E. T.—received.

J. R.—The communication sent by this correspondent will not suit the *Athenæum*.

The *Aurora* of the 17th inst.—We have received some striking and interesting descriptions of this phenomenon; but are compelled to repeat, what we have said on former occasions,—that it is only under very special circumstances that we can find room for such accounts—and that our correspondents would do well to address them to some journal more exclusively scientific than our own.

A PHYSIOLOGICAL F.R.S., and others who have addressed us on the same subject, are reminded that their statements of facts should have the authentication of their names confidentially entrusted to ourselves.

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